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A FEW HENS

THE POULTRY PAPER FOR BEGINNERS.

VOL. 3.

BOSTON, MASS., JULY 15, 1899.

NO. 1.

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A FEW HENS, Box 2118, Boston, Mass.

EDITORIAL HINTS.

Vol. III.

Renew early.

Clean up daily.

Don't complain.

Don't be wasteful.

Keep on hustling.

Separate the sexes.

The egg yield drops.

Sell only fresh goods.

Disinfect once a week.

Trying any trap nests?

Keep the fowls happy.

Trap the poultry thief.

Some hens moult early.

Plow up the hen yards.

Keep the premises tidy.

Rubbish piles draw rats.

Lock the coops at night.

Is the watch dog faithful?

Hoe around the fruit trees.

Grow both fruit and shade.

Wash the drinking vessels.

Watch your neighbor's cat.

Laziness begets negligence.

Keep a cat in the feed room.

Break up the breeding pens.

Strange dogs scare chickens.

July 14th—editor's birthday.

Combine pleasure and profit.

Cobwebs are not ornamental.

Does hot weather affect you?

The hens are looking ragged.

Are there absolute non-sitters?

The American hen is a wonder.

Don't help cold-storage sharks.

Better have quality than quantity.

July 14th—A FEW HENS' birthday.

Experimental Farm Notes.

*Out of the Duck Business—Our Chicks
—The Incubator House—New Poultry
Houses—Trap Nests—The Egg Yield
and Prices for the Month of May.*

We have gone out of the duck business. Our reason for so doing is owing to lack of territory. It was utterly impossible to spare the extra land that we should have to keep them on while their regular runs were being disinfected with a green crop. We have, as our readers know, but two acres of land, and the breeding fowls and their young require so much room that we were compelled to sacrifice something, and we concluded to let the ducks go. What few ducks we held over this year did good work—which will be noted in our annual report.

Our chicks are doing very well in their 12-foot runs. We have lost very few. Our good dog Mark is keeping the "midnight poultry raisers" at bay, so that to date we have had no loss by thieves. Our place being now completely enclosed with a Randall fence, Mark is kept on the two acres, and he patrols the ground in true policeman style.

Last month we became somewhat scared at an army of rats that made their appearance on the premises. At once we installed our cats Tom, Mother and Pert where the rats attempted to locate, and it was only a few days before there was no trace of a rat on the place. We have an idea that they were chased from a neighbor's place, but finding our farm not conducive to their health, they "moved on." With the cats for the rats, and Mark for the two-legged thieves, and our watchfulness for the lice, we believe we are going to have some fine stock this fall.

The Rhode Island Red chicks are growing like weeds. When hatched they were larger than our White Wyandotte chicks of the same age, but the Wyandottes have caught up to them and are showing their colors. We have not yet weighed them, but they are of the same size, and look just as plump. Our White Leghorns and Light Brahmas are

also showing excellent growth this year. We never had better fertility of eggs, nor had we ever hardier and more vigorous stock.

Our incubator house is completed—that is, as far as we can go without making a test by the incubators. It is rather late now to start the machines, especially as we are busy at erecting new buildings, so that it will be fall before we can give that test.

In our last issue we noted that the building was 10 x 26, with a loft overhead. This loft breaks the heat of the roof, and as the ceiling, sides and floor are lined with Neponset Red Rope Roofing, the heat of summer as well as the cold of winter is kept out.

On each side of the window we have a slanting frame erected with holes bored in the one side of these frames. In these holes we can fasten a peg, and thus open the windows any space desired, from one inch to six. The windows open at the top—the hinges are on the bottom of the sash. A small awning on the outside of each window prevents the rain from dashing in. Prairie State incubators are used, and the whole room makes a very pretty appearance.

In our last issue we noted that a hen sitting on Rhode Island Red eggs, received from R. G. Buffinton, Fall River, Mass., died, and that we feared the eggs were injured. Despite the close attention a new hen gave the eggs, we secured but one chick—but that is a lively fellow, and we believe we will raise it. It must be said, however, that the eggs showed excellent fertility—the fault of the poor hatch lying exclusively with the death of the hen.

We have just completed a new house of four pens that will be useful for extra male birds, or surplus stock of any kind. We expect to erect a number of them before fall. This house measures 4 x 16 feet (ground floor), 4 feet high in front, and 2 feet in rear, with a board floor. Hemlock lumber is used—the floor boards are planed on one side. The roof and the outside of the building are covered with Neponset paper. The house is partitioned off into four pens (each 4

feet square). Two feet of the partitions are boards, the remaining top part being wire netting. In the front of each pen is a 2 x 3 feet door, made of inch mesh, giving air and light, on the same plan as our 4 x 4 feet houses which we built last year. Having part of the inner partition wire, allows a circulation of air along the roof, and makes it more comfortable in summer. To these pens we have runs 4 x 16 feet, large enough for the purpose for which they are intended. These houses cost us, for material only—which includes fences—about \$10 each.

We are still experimenting with the trap nests, and are having all sorts of experiences. We have already consumed so much space this month in our Farm Notes that we will have to refer our readers to the editorial columns of this issue for a full report to date.

During May of this year, our Brahmas laid 413 eggs; Wyandottes, 418 eggs; Leghorns, 296 eggs; Ducks, 142 eggs. This made a total of 1369 eggs for the month, or a daily average of a fraction over 44 eggs. The highest number of eggs laid in one day was 58, and the lowest number 32. We disposed of our ducks on the last day of May.

Of eggs retailed, the highest price we received during the month was 17 cents, and the lowest 15 cents; average, 16 cts.

Eggs and Egg Farming.

Onions as Nest Eggs—Curing Egg Eating—Fresh Eggs—Long Island Eggs—City Folks and Fresh Eggs—Egg Cases—Two Good Reports of Small Flocks.

Get up a reputation.

Egg-tricks are costly.

Wash the market eggs.

Market all the eggs each week.

Double yolked eggs are a warning.

Food makes flavor, not color of shell.

The egg farmer cannot be too honest.

Are you helping the cold storage man?

Very hot weather checks egg production.

In size and color of egg cater to your market.

"More eggs and better times," says Nellie Hawks.

Holding eggs for better prices is an unjust practice.

Gather the eggs several times a day—summer and winter.

Eggs sorted according to color and size will mean better sales.

To publish "egg-preserving" recipes is to encourage dishonesty.

Summer prices are low, but then the cost of production is less.

The best egg producers are often only second-class table poultry.

Eggs are about the only crop that is ready for market the moment gathered.

Allowing eggs to accumulate in the nest invites broodiness, and one of them broken will create the vice of egg eating.

The hen that lays 15 eggs per month, per year, is a gem regardless of pedigree, says W. B. German, in *Practical Poultryman*.

Iowa *Homestead* says after a hen is three years old she becomes unprofitable as an egg producer, and is rather tough for table use.

The fresher the egg the more readily it will sink to the bottom when placed in water; while if it is stale it will float.

Mr. Felch thinks eggs should be weighed to determine the record. Why? Large eggs are worth no more than small ones in market.

Mistress: "Did you manage to find the basket of eggs that was on the pantry floor, Kate?" *Servant*: "Oh, yes, mum, aisily. I shteped in it."—*Tit-Bits*.

A. I. Root, in *Gleanings in Bee Culture*, recommends placing a few onions under the broody hen before giving her eggs to hatch. He claims it will clean the hen of vermin.

New York wants white eggs; New England, brown. What foolish prejudices some folks do get. Not one could tell by the flavor of the egg what the color of the shell was.

Farm Journal says one way to cure dogs and hens, too, of eating eggs is to mix mustard with coal oil into a stiff mass, and deftly fill a few shells with it.

The *American Stock-Keeper* says: "The Minorcas are good layers, but their eggs are small, and their flesh is not so good for market purposes as some other breeds are. Their eggs are pure white." We must contradict the remark that the Minorca eggs are small. On the contrary they are very large—next to those of the White-Faced Black Spanish.

A correspondent in *American Poultry Journal* writes: "Mr. Boyer is right in his statement that eggs over three days old are not strictly fresh. All good hens will deposit the egg by 3 p. m. In most cases these can be put on the market that day, or early next morning. They are none too fresh for invalids. Dealers frequently sell eggs from 4 to 10 days old as 'strictly fresh.' The farmer is often to blame for this."

In a grocer's window on the east side, were two lots of eggs, says *Rural New-Yorker*. One was labeled "Longisland Eggs, 20 for 25c,"; the other, "Leghorn Eggs, 15 for 25c." Evidently, there is considered to be a difference in eggs, even on the democratic east side. The origin of the former might be a little more apparent if the name were properly separated and capitalized. It is said that 10 times as many Long Island eggs are sold in New York every year as are produced on that Island.

The *Baltimore Sun* says a gentleman remarked the other day in a Baltimore restaurant: "I don't eat eggs now. They are not good. Thin, pale yolks show it." Another said in reply: "Well, I'll order soft boiled eggs, for I know that it is grass and green weeds that make the yolks that very dark color they have later on, and it is the good grain food they have to feed now to make hens lay that makes the yolks so pale. I've raised chickens and know." There are city people to whom the taste of a genuine fresh-laid egg would be a revelation.

A prominent egg receiver tells the *Produce Review* that he notices a growing preference for 30-dozen egg cases instead of those holding 36 dozens. The advantage seems to be in favor of the former size. Some local buyers who have their purchases delivered by express, favor the 36-dozen case, because the express companies charge a uniform price per case, regardless of size, so they get the extra six dozen delivered practically free; there may, also, be a difference in freight charges in favor of the larger case. But there is said to be less loss from breakage with the 30-dozen cases, and they are much more easily handled.

A. S. Sweet, Uxbridge, Mass., writes A FEW HENS: "I have the curiosity to send you a statement of the product of 38 hens (mixed), for six months, commencing December 1, 1898. My stock consists of Plymouth Rocks and Brown Leghorns (mixed), White Plymouth Rocks, White Wyandottes and Rhode Island Reds. I am an amateur in the business:

Dec., 1898,	191 eggs;	received \$	6.36
Jan., 1899,	322 "	"	14.51
Feb.,	372 "	"	9.44
Mar.,	635 "	"	12.07
Apr.,	542 "	"	9.03
May,	557 "	"	8.79

Total,	2169	\$60.20
Sold, roosters,		3.21

	63.41
Cost of feed,	12.22

Profit,	\$51.19
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Lowest price of eggs, 17c.; highest, 40c. E. R. Reid, Nordhoff, N. J., writes A FEW HENS: "I send you herewith my record of 15 hens kept simply for family use. I have received 705 eggs in the five months at a cost to me of 17 cents per dozen. I set three hens, and have 17 young chicks, with two more hens setting on chicken eggs, and one on duck eggs. I have not been so successful this year in hatching, but hope to get 30 young chicks in all. I got more than twice as many more eggs this year than last, from the same number of hens. I think if a large number of hens were kept, and feed bought in large quantities, eggs could be produced at an average cost of one cent each the year through. My chickens are penned up seven months out of the twelve. I feed mixed ground feed and B. B. B. in the morning, oats or cracked corn mid-day, wheat, corn and oats at night, and what few table scraps are left after my small dog is through. I keep the run well spaded, and give clean drinking water two or three times a day. I am situated about 13 miles from New York city, so have cold weather to contend with the first part of the year. In January I got 30 eggs; cost of feed, \$2.85. February, 82 eggs; feed, \$2.64. March, 177 eggs; feed, \$1.73. April, 255 eggs; feed, \$1.40. May, 161 eggs; feed, \$1.50. Total, 705 eggs; feed, \$10.12."

I breed for business and get business birds. S. C. W. LEGHORNS, strong, hardy birds and great layers. Pullets, '98 hatch, layed when four months old. W. WYANDOTTES, equal to the best, eggs, \$1.50 per 15. SUSQUEHANNA POULTRY FARM, A. J. LATTIN, Proprietor, Milford, N. Y.

About Broilers and Roasters.

Hints and Ideas as Gathered for the Benefit of Poultry Farmers, to Which Belongs Considerable Credit to Our Exchanges.

Dainty, fluffy, downy chicks,
Winning our affections
As we see the little things
Run in all directions.
Greatest care of them we take,
And most kindly treat them,
But about three months from now
We will kill and eat them.
—Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.

Advertise!

Have regular market days.
The buyers are particular.
Broiler farms are increasing.
You cannot force people to buy.
Sell your goods with a guarantee.
How is your market on color of skin?
Treat the customer so as to hold him.
Broilers held a good price last month.
Your goods will give you a reputation.
It is hard to change buyers' prejudices.
It is "hit or miss" with the transient caterer.

Pack with plenty of ice during hot weather.

Free range is apt to make the broiler or roaster tough.

The broiler markets all over the country are improving.

The regular marketeer always commands the best prices.

Better sell stock live than to offer it poorly dressed.

Argument does not improve the unattractive carcass.

The juicy broiler comes from pure food and rapid maturity.

The carcass should be attractive to the taste as well as the eye.

An attractively printed and worded tag on each carcass holds sales.

Don't bite at all the tempting offers sent out by new commission men.

"Putting best on top" is a trick the commission men are watching.

It is generally the huckster who buys up the stock in summer, that is agent for the cold-storage house.

Ann C. Webster says there is more money made today in raising broilers and roasters for market than anything else.

If you are dealing with a fair and square commission merchant, stick to him. Better offers are often made by tricky men.

An Illinois firm recently shipped to an English poultry house a train load, consisting of 10,000 boxes of selected chickens.

Mongrels do very well for family use, but are no good for market, says Texas *Farm and Ranch*. Appearance as well as merit is required these days to make goods sell.

The Puritan Poultry Farms, of Stamford, Conn., are said to be the largest and most complete poultry establishment on the continent. It is claimed that they marketed, during the season of '98-'99, 36,000 pairs of broilers.

As a broiler cannot be secured on free range, and as it can attain the required weight in a given time only by a systematic feeding of pure foods, it carries with it a reputation and demand on account of its juiciness, tenderness and purity.

J. H. Davis, in *Inter-State Poultryman*, says: The White Wyandotte is par excellence, the farmer's fowl, everybody's fowl. It is large, dresses up plump and finely for the table, is a good layer of large eggs, and is never troubled with frozen comb in the winter season. The chicks are hardy, feather quickly and soon attain broiler size.

Ducks and Ducklings.

French "Ducklings"—The Aylesbury and Cayuga Ducks—Hatching Duck Eggs Fully Five Weeks Old—Fattening Ducks—Ducks for the London Markets—The French Caneton de Rouen Duck and Method of Dressing.

Bed well.

Ducks cannot stand filth.

The Rouen is the show duck.

The drinking vessel must be deep.

The duck laying season is nearly over.

Ducks do not take kindly to nest boxes.

The duck house should be well ventilated.

The exclusive duck farm is becoming more scarce.

Broilers and ducklings make a strong combination.

Hot suns will kill more ducklings than anything else.

After breeding season the ducks can be run in one flock.

Too many drakes in the flock are apt to injure the ducks.

The cross of Pekin on Aylesbury makes a good laying family.

The English poulterers mate two to three ducks to a drake.

Duck feathers sell at about one-half the price of goose feathers.

Protection from hot suns and heavy rains are important matters in duck raising.

In France the birds which are called ducklings are not birds of the present year, but ducks that were hatched in the previous season.

Mr. Palmer says the Pekin duck is a great layer of fine eggs, but has not the fineness of flesh and the early maturity of the Aylesbury though equal in growth.

English *Poultry* says: The Cayuga has certainly claims as a utility duck, the meat being of fine flavor, but we cannot say that it has an attractive appearance on a poulterer's slab.

The French greatly appreciate the high quality of the American Cayuga duck, and yet in this country but few Cayugas are bred. Certainly this is a product we are not overly proud of.

Geo. A. Palmer, in *English Poultry*, says: We have many a time had Aylesbury, Pekins and Rouens of the same age running at liberty together to grow for stock, and have always found the two former to grow right away from the latter.

John Klenke, Pittsburg, Pa., writes A FEW HENS: "I see so much said that duck eggs should be set not later than two weeks old. Last spring I bought two dozen Pekin duck eggs in market, thinking I would soon get some broody hens to set. But I had to keep those eggs fully five weeks. I set them under two hens, but the eggs being so

large they could not cover them well. The first week I took out four that were infertile, and of the remainder I received 18 ducks. I kept these eggs in a pasteboard box covered well with paper so they would not shake, tied a cord around the box, and turned the eggs nearly every day. I do not know how old they were when I bought them."

The great secret of fattening ducklings is to be early, and this can only be attained by keeping the stock ducks young, says Geo. A. Palmer. Even as in fowl we get the winter eggs from the pullets, so ducks of the first year will commence laying long before the older ones. We find in practice that it does not answer to keep stock ducks more than two years. They should be hatched in March, and kept after the first few weeks at liberty, as the object here is to build up frame and constitution. It is never wise to breed from young immature stock on both sides, and the finest young will be produced by mating the one-year-old ducks to a two-year-old drake; yet to insure fertility, it is sometimes necessary to use a drake of the first year for the early months.

Mr. Tegetmeier says in England ducklings are bred for the London markets as early in the year as possible. At Christmas time, in the neighborhood of Aylesbury, as much as 12s. per dozen will occasionally be given for eggs of good Aylesbury ducks, in order that the ducklings may be reared and fattened early, for in the spring months from 12s. to 15s. a couple is no uncommon price for good Aylesbury ducklings. Formerly the struggle was to get the ducklings ready for the peas; now the position of things is reversed, and the difficulty is to produce the peas to accompany the early ducklings. The birds realizing the high prices named, are reared and fattened in many cases in the laborers' cottages, are never allowed to go into the water, are forced upon mixed vegetable and animal food, and are killed at from 8 to 10 weeks old, before they have moulted a single nestling feather. The meat is tender, the flavor delicate, not at all assilating to that of the wild duck.

"The difference between the English Aylesbury and the French Caneton de Rouen in appearance depends not only on age, but greatly on the method of killing," says Mr. Tegetmeier, in *London Field*. "The Aylesbury duckling is killed either by cutting the large vessels of the neck or thrusting a knife through the roof of the mouth, methods which allow the escape of a large quantity of blood and render the flesh whiter than it otherwise would be. The Caneton de Rouen, on the contrary, is killed by suffocation, the mouth and nostrills being closed. The result is that no blood escapes from the body, the skin becomes dark and discolored, but the flavor of the bird is retained to a much greater extent than is the case with our Aylesbury breed; in fact, the Caneton de Rouen eats like larger and tender wild duck. I have never seen these birds exhibited for sale in England as

they are in France, but should there be any large demand for them in the London market, there should be no difficulty whatever in their supply from English sources, but then the energies of our poultry producers are difficult to direct into new channels."

Diseases—Remedy and Prevention.

Lice, Canker, Diphtheria, Feather Pulling, Gapes, Diarrhœa, Chicken-Pox—Are White Fowls Delicate in a Cold Climate—Cause of 99 Per Cent of the Deaths—Treatment of Ailing Fowls During Hot Weather.

Be on the watch.

Disinfect once a week.

Bad food invites disease.

Remove droppings daily.

Comfort is a health tonic.

Get at the root of the evil.

Filth is a chum of disease.

Fight indigestion and lice.

An overfed hen is not a well one.

Prompt treatment avoids disaster.

Negligence is one of diseases agents.

Overcrowding is an enemy to health.

Peter Putoff always has sick chickens.

Sickness is a penalty for some mistake. A careless man has sick stock before he knows it.

Breed only from strong, healthy, vigorous stock.

The scum of the drinking fountain is a disease breeder.

White hellebore dissolved in water and sprinkled on the roosts is sure death to lice.

Nipping the slight ailments in the bud, is the secret possessed by the expert poultryman.

Eternal vigilance is the price of freedom from lice and the depredations of vermin, says *Farm Journal*.

Farm Journal recommends Phenol Sodique in all cases of canker or diphtheritic roup. It can be obtained at almost any drug store.

Ten drops of colchicam wine in a teaspoonful of cod liver oil, is recommended for male birds that have lost the use of their legs.

Poultry Graphic says air-slaked lime has no terrors to healthy lice—they flourish in it. Apply it in the form of hot whitewash, with a little carbolic acid, and you will get results.

Dr. W. F. Roth says the origin of roup is usually found in untelligent care, filth, cold drafts and dampness, a low standard of vitality, and often by infection. Be careful then, that all birds bought are healthy.

Farm Journal says feather pulling may be checked by dissolving powdered aloes in water and washing the feathers of the birds that have been plucked. This renders the feathers distasteful to the culprits that do the plucking. Bran moistened with vinegar is said to cure the habit in hens that have contracted it as a result of indigestion.

A correspondent in *Practical Poultryman* says he cures gapes by placing a pint basin on the stove with a little sour milk in and after the curd had separated he lets it sour a day or so and gives to his chickens. Always have plenty of water by chickens so they will not drink too much.

If all that has been written about roup

in fowls, was collected into a library, a freight car would not hold the books, and it would take a man years to wade through the mass, and at the end he would be unable to recognize roup even if he had it himself or more likely he would be insane, says *Texas Farm and Ranch*.

Diarrhœa in fowls may be caused by improper or sour food, filthy water, or filthy quarters, says *Kansas Farmer*. Putting a little alum in the drinking water and feeding a little cheese will sometimes cure it; at the same time it will be found a good plan to mix a little charcoal and bone meal in the food, as this will help to correct any disorder of the stomach or digestive organs.

The aim should be to keep the fowls in health by making their surroundings healthy, says *Wallace's Farmer*. If a fowl gets very sick, kill it, unless you know to a certainty what is the matter with it and how to cure it. Don't take any chances on a mopish hen in August and September, unless you are very sure that you can draw the line all right between a case of indigestion and cholera in its early stages.

An old issue of the *Fanciers' Journal* says very many imagine white fowls to be delicate; that is, unable to endure cold, and therefore unfitted for the climate of the Eastern States and the Canadas, but to be recommended for the Southern market. Nature refutes this in giving the richest, darkest, deepest tints for the tropics, and in darkening the plumage of the migratory flyers preparatory to their Southern journey, and *vice versa*, until in the extreme North and South, and the more to be remarked as the cold increases, we find either white or an approach to it in neutral tints prevailing.

Chicken pox is an unsightly disease among poultry. The comb and head become affected with small watery sores, and the afflicted birds are feverish and low spirited. An exchange advises putting a few drops of aconite in the drinking water. Then take vaseline, sweet oil and lard, equal parts, put in couple drops of carbolic acid, and add enough sulphur to make a paste. Apply this ointment to the head and comb, or wherever the sores are manifest, every day until well. Do not forget to isolate all sick fowls from those not effected, to prevent a further spread of disease. Use carbolic acid as a disinfectant at all times.

A Western poultry paper recently published an article on poultry and cause of death among same. By investigation it was proved that 99 per cent of the chickens that die lose their life in consequence of the ravages of lice, either directly or indirectly; that a laying hen covered with lice becomes so debilitated that her chickens are not so strong as those from hens free from lice. It is the lice worrying and sucking the life blood from the fowl that weakens it so that it is not strong enough to resist disease in any form and soon sickens and dies. The first cause in nearly every case is lice. So when you find an ailing fowl look for lice.

A correspondent in *Farm-Poultry* writes: "I see that a great many women are worrying about lice on their chickens. I put a stop to lice troubles at once by gathering up the little ones biddy has hatched, in a small box that will hold 15 comfortably, and then take a flannel cloth well dampened with coal oil, and spread it over the box, covering in the little flock. I leave them this way for 10 minutes, then remove the flannel and expose it to heat sufficient to kill the lice clinging to it. I repeat the operation until no lice are to be found on the rag. Then the chicks are all right, and there is nothing for them to do but to start growing for all they are worth."

Neglect is always costly in the poultry yard, and especially so in hot weather. When a fowl or chick appears ailing in August, rest assured the trouble is either indigestion or vermin, says the *Baltimore Sun*. If it is the first named it is generally determined by the condition of the bowels. Less food or a radical change in diet, and giving a teaspoonful of soda water (bicarbonate) will generally restore the ailing specimen. If vermin is the cause, use the well-known methods for eradication. Avoid overcrowding at night of young chicks which have recently been transferred from the coops to the poultry house. They are apt to huddle, and unless moved apart will become overheated during the night. Go to the poultry house before retiring and see that the chicks are comfortable. A visit of inspection with the lantern will often save loss and trouble.

Pointers on Food and Feeding.

Feeding Green Bone—Spoiled Fish—Mistakes in Corn Feeding—Rape for Poultry—Alfalfa—Feeding Potatoes for Eggs.

Use judgment.

Use pure food only.

Don't become reckless.

Feeding well is not overfeeding.

Too much meat is as bad as too little.

Clean the troughs and feed boards daily.

Wheat is the best food for growing pullets.

If you have the land to spare, sow some turnip seed now for winter feeding.

Fowls that are moulting need plenty of food, but it should not be of a fattening nature—therefore feed sparingly of corn.

It is well to remember that it is not what a hen eats that makes eggs and flesh, but what she is able to digest and assimilate.

Feeding green bone is a preventative of leg weakness, which is generally caused by a lack of mineral matter in the bones of the chick.

Oat meal, or the kernal of the oat, contains a large amount of muscle forming element, and should be a liberal part of the growing youngsters' ration. The feeding of the growing chickens should continue right along with varied diet. There is little danger of overfeeding if good, sound wholesome food is used.

Soup bones and other large bones should be thoroughly baked and then pounded up or cut for the chickens. They are fond of them, and eat up the last scrap.

Rural Home says: "Spoiled fish make a good food for poultry." There never was a greater mistake. Under no circumstances feed spoiled food, and especially anything in the meat line. The editor of the *Poultry Keeper* says that a hen which won't lay after it has been fed cut green bone and cut clover, ought to have its head cut off.

Rural New-Yorker says a hen will drink at least one-half pint of water a day in hot weather. An egg is more than three-quarters water. Any cheaper feed than water?

Be careful that you don't feed too much. While the hens are on the range they get about all they want and should be fed but lightly at night.

Mixed flocks cannot be fed to advantage, says *Poultry, Fruit and Garden*. Enough food for good laying in a Leghorn might ruin a Plymouth Rock with fat. Only fowls of the same characteristics can be treated alike with profit.

It is not possible for all to give their chicks unlimited range, says *Ohio Poultry Journal*, and in such cases the feeder will have to make up the deficiency by feeding bone-forming elements. The best of these is green cut bone.

The *American Stock-Keeper* says corn will answer very well for marketing purposes, provided we begin thus to feed the birds at the right time. But corn-feeding to laying hens, as an exclusive diet is of no account whatever. Change their feed often.

There is just one thing in connection with feeding oats that should be remembered, says *Wisconsin Farmer*, and that is that plenty of good sharp grit to grind the shucks of oats, which are very tough and unyielding, must be provided. With plenty of sharp grit there is no danger attending oat feeding.

Whatever may be thought of rape for sheep or larger stock, it is certainly fine for yarded poultry, says *Farm-Journal*. Sow it this month in vacant yards or in any unoccupied plot nearby. A moderate supply of grain supplemented by rape, will develop the young stock into splendid form for exhibition and breeding.

Do not conclude, because the hens have a large range in summer, that they do not need any food but what they can find. While they may get along, they will not be kept in prime condition when fall comes. Use good judgment in feeding the hens in summer, both as regards quantity and quality of food.

Green bones are bones fresh from the butcher, with the adhering gristle, meat, etc. Every meat shop has a great deal of this waste material, which is unfit for market, and which finds its way to some soap factory or is thrown to the hogs. Sometimes there will be several large pieces of meat which the butcher cannot sell. These pieces add a great value to the bone.

The sooner that farmers recognize the fact that poultry raising should be followed on the same line that dairying is—giving food and care to secure results—the sooner will they begin to reap their share of profits and become competitors with practical poultry raisers, says Geo. O. Brown. The idea that "anything is good enough for hogs or chickens" is a mistaken one that has anchored many a farmer on the wrong side of the road to profitable farming.

The *Baltimore Sun* says alfalfa is destined to be one of the leading crops for poultry pasture. Its wonderful recuperative powers prove it to be just the plant for the purpose. It can be cut several times during a season for hay making. Poultry can be turned on it, and when it has been eaten down pretty close they may be removed and the alfalfa will soon be growing again with its usual vigor. This may be repeated the entire season.

The value of green bone lies in its well proportioned and numerous constituents, which are just what is needed by the hen to produce eggs, says *Inland Poultry*. In it we have lime for the shell, mineral water for the yolk, and albumen for the white. It is as near an all-round food as any one can be. There is only one objection to it, and that is that it is somewhat concentrated. If hens are fed on it entirely, they will eat too much; hence, it is necessary to feed it in connection with some bulky food, such as clover or bran.

Green bones contain the natural juices as well as the adhering substances, says *Inland Poultry*. This makes it superior to the bones that have lain on the ground for years, and lost all the natural juices or animal matter. Dry bones, when fed to the hens, is insoluble, and only acts as a grit. There may be some of the mineral matter digested, but it is a very small amount. Green bone, however, having the animal matter in it, is quite soluble and easily assimilated by the digestive organs of the fowl. So it is plain that green bones are not only superior to dry bones in having the natural juices and adhering substances, but also in being more soluble and capable of having the mineral matter digested.

An English fancier in *Poultry Monthly* says some people contend that the analysis of the potato shows it to be a very unfit food for use, while others maintain that practical experience proves it to be most useful. We favor the latter. Judiciously given and blended with a little common sense, we consider the potato one of the best additions to our fowls' bill of fare. Only the day before writing these notes a case came under our notice where two neighbors both kept fowls, and both had the same number, variety and accommodation. From 24 hens one was getting 20 eggs a day, the other 10. The former attributed the better laying of his birds to the use of a boilerful of warm potatoes mixed with his morning meal. It has always been our custom to use potatoes in

some form or another, and we look upon them as both good and cheap.

It seems to us that oats are not appreciated on the farm as a poultry food to the extent they should be, says *Iowa Homestead*. Corn is the universal food for all kinds of stock, whether growing or fattening. Many feed corn because it seems to be handy to feed, always ready and they always find poultry ready for it. A boy is always ready for pie if there is pie for him, and his explanation of sufficient and enough is far different from that of his mother. The boy thinks sufficient means when his mother thinks he has had enough, but his idea of enough is when he thinks he has had enough. In this the hen will do the same thing. She will eat plenty of corn if it is given to her, and if she gets pretty fat she is liable to get lazy, and will not produce many eggs.

Turkey Culture.

New England Product—Onions—Turkey Broiler—Fattening for Market—Plucking the Wings—Roosting Out Doors—Introducing Wild Blood—Lice—Treatment of Bowel Troubles—Keeping a Close Watch—Marketing Turkey Feathers.

In many sections, the cultivation of the turkey is being sadly neglected.

About four dozen eggs are given as an average for the annual output of the turkey.

"Here, wifey (hic), I've got 'leven turkeys for you." "Eleven turkeys! What do you mean? There is only one." "There must be 'leven, wifey (hic), for I fell down 'leven times, and every time I found a turkey."—*Exchange*.

A correspondent in *English Rural World* says he fattens his turkeys chiefly on Indian corn, scalded Indian meal and boiled potatoes, and the home grown corn for a change, and gets them up to 22 pounds dead weight at Christmas.

In the New England States, particularly in Rhode Island, Connecticut and New Hampshire, enormous quantities of turkeys are turned out every year. And these find a ready sale in bulk for the most part in Boston, New York and other cities, at about Thanksgiving and Christmas time, or later.

Every person raising poultry should have a patch of winter onions, says a correspondent in *Kansas Farmer*. I have two patches, one near the house, and another farther away that I keep for sets to use in winter. Twelve rows, 100 feet long, 18 inches apart, will make enough feed after the first year for 250 or more chickens and turkeys. The most delicious, juicy broiler that an epicure can fancy is a turkey poult of about six pound weight, or when about two-thirds grown, and of medium size. Many a young male two-thirds grown would be too large to broil; if rather large, however, the breast may be gashed, and thus more easily cooked through, but it must not be dried.

The *Epitomist* advises, when the wings of the turkey begin to be the largest

part of it, take the poult up and pull two or three of the long feathers out of the wings at the point, holding the wing tightly and giving a quick jerk. We do not know what causes these long feathers to grow in, but we do know that when they are pulled out the chances are very good for that turkey to grace a Thanksgiving festival.

While it is undoubtedly good for the turkeys to roost out of doors during the warm weather of summer, as well as the pleasant fall months, we cannot think but that having been exposed all winter to the fierceness of the blasts, will injure them more or less, says *American Stock-Keeper*. Feeding the turkeys regularly, and afterward driving them every eve into a commodious shed where they can find accommodations for roosting, they will soon learn to seek that shelter for the night, and will be more secure from the depredations of poultry thieves.

Jas. H. Wilson, in *Fancy Fowls*, says: "The only true Bronze turkey is the wild turkey. No one ever heard of wild turkeys having cholera, roup or gapes. They are the healthiest, hardiest turkey known, quick to detect danger and fight for their young. They are not hard to manage, as some people suppose. They don't stand around and wait to be fed; they get out to get their feed themselves, and are easy to raise. By the time they are reduced one-fourth wild there is not much wild nature about them, although the color and constitution are greatly improved. I consider it advisable for turkey breeders to infuse wild blood in their flocks."

At the age when turkeys begin to acquire the red head, possibly it is accompanied by a fever similar to the moulting fever in fowls, says a New York turkey raiser. At this period, feed well and watch for vermin. The "head louse" is found on top of head, nape of neck and under the ears. Dust frequently with insect powder or grease with lard. The small gray "mite" is hard to find; it clings closely under the throat and beneath the wings, and is the most blood thirsty of the vermin. Anoint well with lard, into which is mixed a little coal oil. Use the kerosene wash and sulphur freely about the coops and roosting place. On the ninth week the brood may be left to care for themselves night and morning.

J. R. White, in *Kansas Farmer*, says: The time is here that the green shoots from the wheat, alfalfa and grasses will cause hundreds of chickens and turkeys to die from bowel trouble if not fed food that will check it. Last fall when the rains set in one of my neighbors lost 100 head of turkeys, another 40, and several others quite a number, from the green, tender wheat and alfalfa. I feed two-fifths bran and three-fifths of corn chop, mixed with Venetian red until it has a strong red color, and have never lost a turkey. Some use the Douglas mixture, some scalded bran and corn chop with plenty of pepper. All are good, and with plenty of good coarse grit and clean water, you should have but very little sickness in your flock.

Prof. Samuel Cushman, at New York Farmers' Institute, said crosses between the wild and domestic turkey are healthier and hardier than the latter, and have some of the qualities of the wild. A certain proportion of wild blood will improve the size, form and general appearance of the domestic stock, as well as their vigor. For practical purposes, a quarter-wild gobbler will give best results as a breeder. Part wild mothers will make their young too wild. To avoid the disadvantages of wild blood use nothing but quarter-wild males. Quarter-wild birds treated gently are more tame and fearless, but if not, may be as wild as the wild birds of the woods. Wild cross turkeys, on account of their apparent slender build and blue, peaked head, may be taken for sick turkeys by those unaccustomed to them.

A Canadian correspondent of the *American Agriculturist* says turkeys are as easy to raise as chickens if one has the right stock. But most people pick out all the largest birds to market at Thanksgiving and Christmas, and keep the small ones, with the impression that they will grow if given time. This is a great mistake, as in a flock you will always find a few better developed, bigger-boned birds, and these invariably have the constitution we need for breeding purposes. To make a success select the best hens in the flock; good deep, plucky birds, with big bone and short legs, and dispose of the long-legged, loose-built ones. He finds the Bronze the hardiest, but a cross with the wild would perhaps still further improve them. The biggest drawback with the wild cross is, they are hard to keep near the home, and are easily frightened. Having selected your breeding stock, which is best to do in the fall, winter them and let them run out all the time.

An English turkey raiser says: "I make it a hard and fast rule (if at home) to feed my turkeys myself every morning, as by so doing, I see at once if any of the birds are ailing. If ever you see a turkey refusing its morning meal, you may be quite sure it requires attention. Sometimes, when 5 or 6 months old, you see one lagging behind the rest, and either refusing food altogether or just pecking a few grains, then walk away. Taken in time this state of affairs is soon remedied. Catch the turkey and put in a warm, dry building, and mix half a teaspoonful of lard, or unsalted butter, with a half teaspoonful of cayenne pepper, and make it into small pills with a little flour. These pills I give at night and feed very sparingly next day. The following morning the bird generally goes out all right, and quite ready for breakfast. Should this not be the case, I have often given half of one of Carter's Little Liver Pills with good effect."

Rural New-Yorker gives the following pointers on marketing turkey feathers: The quills from the third joint or tip end of the wing are called pointers, and should be kept separate. In packing, keep tail and wing feathers separate. Tie each kind in bundles by

itself, and press the bundles in the boxes tightly. All feathers must be clean, sound and dry-picked. The wing quills which have full plumage on both sides of the quill, which come from the first and second joints of the wing next the body, are more valuable than, and should be kept separate from, the pointers. The tail feathers should be kept by themselves, and are the most valuable. The short tail and wing quills, if saved, should be kept separate from the long ones, as they depreciate their value if mixed with them. Prices here at present are about as follows: Prime tail quills, from 25 to 30 cents per pound; mixed tail and wing quills, about 20 cents per pound; mixed wing, tail and pointer quills, about 12 to 15 cents per pound; short tail and wing quills, about 7 to 8 cents per pound; pointers, about 4 cents per pound. The directions for shipping are to mark the correct weight and tare on the boxes, also the name of the shipper, and ship as "turkey quills." The prices named may vary from time to time, but are approximately correct.

A correspondent in *American Agriculturist* gives this method for fattening choice turkeys: In the morning feed a mash composed of corn, barley or buckwheat meal, mixed with skim milk, and a few sweet potatoes added, with some sharp grit to aid digestion. Also mix with this feed a good brand of condition powders; it sharpens the appetite, and causes them to gain flesh faster. At noon give cracked corn, buckwheat or barley, and at night give a supper of whole or cracked corn, with an occasional feed of buckwheat. Do not use new corn, as it is apt to produce bowel trouble, but feed well seasoned corn, one year old. That over one year old is apt to make the flesh coarser and not so white and delicate as that fed on nice, white one-year-old corn. It is best not to coop turkeys while fattening; they almost invariably lose their appetites and become sickly. Turkeys are very active and must have plenty of fresh air and liberty or they will not thrive. If fed all they will eat three times a day, they are not inclined to roam, but will sit around quietly and will seem to enjoy resting in the sunshine. Turkeys intended for the later markets should not be so heavily fed as those intended for sale in a few weeks. Long continued heavy feeding is not profitable and is a source of great loss among turkey growers. Turkeys should be killed at once when ready for market. If kept over this time they soon begin to lose in flesh and will prove unprofitable.

33 Ribbons Boston and New York.

Mr. Boyer recommends my stock and myself. My Rose C. Brown have a record of over 220 eggs to a hen in '98, '99. S. C. Browns and Rose, second to none in the world. White and Barred Rocks, Bradley & Thompson stock. Pekin Ducks, 10 lb. stock. Buff Leghorns, Wh. Leghorns, (Whiting). Wh. Wyans, (Dustin). Bl. Langshans and Minorcas. Stock all of best blood. Cocks, hens, cockerels and pullets for sale. A Buff Cochin cock, \$3.50. W. W. KULP, Pottstown, Pa.

THOROUGHbred

S. C. W. Leghorns, W. Wyandottes and Am. Dominiques. Bred for great laying. Eggs, \$1 per sitting; \$5 per 100. Stock for sale. F. J. BARNES, Turin, N. Y.

Artificial Hatching and Brooding.

*Up-to-Date-Hen — It is Management,
Not Luck that Wins—Worst Possible
Day for a Hatch—Difference Between
Hot and Cold Weather Heat.*

Oh, I'm the happiest creature on legs,
Have only to cackle and furnish the eggs;
Don't set three weeks harking, awake or asleep
Just running the risk of not having a peep.
My business accomplished, away I can run,
With chattering joining in mischief or fun.
I keep the nice feathers that show on my breast,
And may be a high head will grow a fine crest;
I do well at strutting, and how do I know
But, if keep trying, I can learn to crow?
I manage the roosting, and hasten the fights,
In line of progression I claim all new rights.
I do not suppose it once entered the plan
Of that incubator invented by man,
To give us this comfort and pleasure, but still,
I vote him our thanks, our respect and good
will.

Harvard, Mass. ENFRANCHISED FOWL.

Study thoroughly.
Become an expert.
Use only the best oil.
Is your thermometer correct?
Derive a lesson from every hatch.
Beware of home-made incubators.
Eggs of a uniform size hatch best.
Keep the incubator out of the draft.
Too high a temperature is weakening.
The germ is injured the easiest in the
start.
Campbell prefers to run his incubators
above ground.
Don't get the incubator heat too high
in the beginning.
If your incubator is doing satisfactory
work stick to it.
Don't let the incubator heat get too low
at hatching time.
The thermometer needs closer watching
now than during cold weather.
Cripples are generally caused by being
too long imprisoned in the shell.
Does your insurance policy permit you
to run the incubator in your house?
Unless the eggs are from healthy, vig-
orous stock, the best of incubators
will make unsuccessful hatches.
When eggs are overheated in the start,
the chicks are generally found dead
in the shell when the hatch is due.
J. L. Campbell, the incubator expert,
says: "Although I have been raising
chickens all my life, I learn some-
thing new every year."
In brooding during warm weather, do
not get the heat too high at night or
the chicks will sweat and bowel
troubles will result.

We do not believe that it is possible for
any incubator to make a hatch, re-
gardless of conditions, without some
moisture. We know that under cer-
tain conditions it can be done, but not
always.

Here is good logic, by J. H. Davis, in
Fanciers' Review: On the 27th of
March we took 100 chicks out of an
incubator from 120 fertile eggs. Those
in the vicinity who had incubators—
half a dozen—said, "Oh, you had
splendid luck." We told them no we
did not believe in luck at all. We
had a first-class incubator, and we
attended to it all the time, so that it
was management not luck which pro-
duced such good results. It would be
a good idea to tell people they manage
instead of saying, "you had luck."
There is no chance work or luck in

running an incubator. It must be
managed right and attended to.

J. L. Campbell says in "Artificial Hatch-
ing and Brooding": "The worst pos-
sible day to get out a good hatch is a
very hot one, because the chicks
smother so easily at such a time, so
that the smallest possible amount of
moisture that will answer should be
used on a hot day. I prefer above any
other kind of weather a cool, pleasant
day, especially if a nice breeze is blow-
ing. On such a day as that chicks
seem to be and are much stronger than
on a hot day. The worst of all days
is one that is called in common par-
lance "muggy," that is, a hot day
with air saturated with moisture.
Chicks will die (smother) on such a
day as that without the slightest
provocation that you can see. When
I have a hatch coming off on such a
day or night I stay with them. When
the day is cool and pleasant they can
hoe their own row pretty much as
they like, and they will get out all
right, but the all-important thing is
to keep the heat just right, and sup-
ply enough air so they will not pant
any before they get perfectly dry."

Mr. Campbell also gives an interesting
account of the difference between hot
and cold weather heat. He says:
"There is one very curious point about
temperature which has caused me a
great amount of study, and even yet I
am not absolutely sure that I have
reached the proper solution of this
problem. It would naturally be sup-
posed that it was easier to overheat
eggs on a hot day than a cold one, and
so it is, but the rather curious fact
remains that sometimes on a hot day
chicks will stand heat which would
kill every chick on a cold day, and it
appears to do them no harm whatever.
I have experimented a good bit along
that line, and I am not satisfied that I
know all I want to know about it yet.
A case in point will illustrate what I
mean. The lamp on one of my incu-
bators was accidentally left in such
shape that the regulator could not
shut it off. The day was very hot,
and only a very small flame was burn-
ing at best, but the heat went to 112,
and must have been that high for at
least two hours, quite long enough to

BUFF P. ROCKS. Nuggets only. They are
no strangers. Won Pa. State Medal at recent
show; winning gold special Red and Blue Ribbons
for six years. Eggs, 13, \$1.50; 30, \$2.50; 40, \$4.00 for 50.
KERLIN & SON, Box 4, Shenkel, Pa.

Barred Ply. Rocks.

Thoroughbred stock of well-known brown egg
strains. Breeders carefully selected each year for
various desirable qualities. Have bred Barred
Rocks exclusively for four years. No stock for sale.
Eggs, \$1.50 per 13; \$6.00 per 100. Satisfaction guar-
anteed. **P. B. METCALF,**
No. 30 Laurence Ave., Roxbury, Mass.

EGGS \$1.00 per 15. White Wyand; great layers of
large brown eggs. S. C. W. Leghorns prolific lay-
ing strain. All Standard bred. Nothing better. Sat-
isfaction guaranteed. **C. E. MISNER,** Calla, Ohio.

White Wyandottes, Buff Plymouth Rocks

Pedigreed strains. Prolific layers of large brown
eggs. Stock unsurpassed for vigor, shape and color.
Utility and beauty combined. Eggs, \$1.00 per 15.
CHARLES H. CANNEY, Dover, N. H.

CHILD'S WYANDOTTES

SILVER AND WHITE.
WM. H. CHILD, . . . HATBORO, PA.

heat the chicks to that point. This
was the 18th day of incubation, and I
decided that the chicks were done for,
as they appeared to be dead on exam-
ination. The temperature of the room
was 96 at that time, so I opened the
incubator and left them for several
hours, and 133 chicks hatched out of
147 eggs, and these chicks are nearly
all alive and doing well at nearly two
months old. I have purposely heated
incubators to 112 on a cold day, with
the result of killing nearly every
chick inside of one hour. I think the
difference lies in the fact that on a
cold day the extra heat is all incuba-
tor heat, while on a hot day a good
part of it is animal heat, or in other
words, the same amount of incubator
heat applied on the hot day that is
applied on the cold day, would run it
up perhaps 130, and the chicks would
all be dead before they became that
hot. The solution, I think, is some-
what like the reason that a person
who is acclimated can stand a heat
which would kill a person who is not."

Poultry Printing. Sat. guar. Exp. prepaid.
Write for prices. **S. M. BOOROM,** Grand Rapids, O.

OTTER CREEK POULTRY FARM, Ver-
gennes, Vt. Light Brahmas, B. P. Rocks and
W. Wyandottes; brown eggs and bred for business.
Eggs that will hatch, 15 for \$1; 60 for \$3; 100 for \$4.

CUT CLOVER in sacks. \$1.25 for 100 pounds.
J. G. QUIRIN, Tioga Center, N. Y.

PIT GAMES. Eggs, \$1.50 per 15.
C. G. BAXTER, Merchantville, N. J.

Eggs for hatching from prize winning Lt. Brah., S. C.
W. and Br. Leg., W. Wyand., Bl. Langs., B. P. Rocks;
\$1.00 pr. 13; \$2.00 pr. 30. **S. J. LOWE,** Columbia, Del.

BARRED ROCK EGGS from yard headed
by Cockerel from A. C. Hawkins. Hens are
large, nice shape, well marked, and good layers.
\$1.00 for 13. A few settings Indian Game eggs, yard
headed by first Cockerel, Washington, D. C., Decem-
ber, '97. \$2.00 per 13. Pekin Duck eggs, Pollard
stock, \$1.00 per 13. **C. C. SHORB,** McDaniel, Md.

I. K. FELCH & SON,

Box K, Natick, Mass.

Light Brahmas, Plymouth Rocks,
and White Wyandottes,

—BRED ON PRACTICAL LINES.—

Standard Points and Egg Records Combined.
Enclose stamps for 24 page catalogue.

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ing cuts of all kinds of poultry. Anything
you want in that line you will save money
by asking for prices.

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and cheapest first-class hatcher
in the market. Circulars free.

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plete catalogue ever issued on this peerless
breed, free. **V. M. MARKEN,** Frederick, Md.

"Best Liver Pill Made." Parsons' Pills

Positively cure biliousness and sick headache,
liver and bowel complaints. They expel all impurities
from the blood. Delicate women find relief from
using them. Price 25 cts.; five \$1.00. Pamphlet free.
I. S. JOHNSON & CO., 22 Custom House St., Boston.

A FEW HENS.

EDITED BY

MICHAEL K. BOYER,

Hammonton, N. J.

Published Once a Month.

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By the Year, Twenty-Five Cents.

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EDITORIAL.

Our Birthday. The hot summer months are here, and as A FEW HENS with this issue enters its third year of existence, we would be pleased to have a little chat. It was in the month of July, 1897, that the first number of our paper appeared. We had the usual trouble and experience incident to the introduction of a new publication. We looked for them—we were not surprised or disappointed because they came.

It required considerable confidence, pluck and grit to start a new poultry publication at the time of year when the mercury was making desperate efforts to reach the top of the glass; and right in the season acknowledged to be the dullest of the year for soliciting subscriptions and advertisements. It cost considerable money and grit to battle against all these obstacles, but we felt that we knew what the poultry world wanted, and this gave us great hope.

We were rewarded. Despite the time of the year, despite the hot weather, business started right in with us. Each month we saw that subscription list swelling, and the advertising patronage was making a slow but healthy growth.

Our readers know the rest—how we grew from 8 pages to our present size, and even more during the busy advertising season. Our readers have rejoiced with us as the subscription list passed the 1,000 mark—then the 3,000—then the 5,000—then the 10,000—and now making rapid progress towards 20,000. These are *bonifide* paid subscriptions, and do not include the thousands of sample copies sent out each month.

The hundreds of testimonials from our subscribers which we have published, the high endorsement from the leading poultry journals, the gratifying results received by our advertisers, all tend to making our happiness all the more complete.

During the past year we have been liberally favored, for which we are thankful. We have tried to keep our paper as near the mark as we possibly could. We have stuck closely to the motto and the plan adopted in the start. Not once did we yield to the entreaties of the fancy to give them a share of our space. We started out as a practical poultry journal, and we intend sticking

close to our text. The publication of show reports, show news, discussion on technical points in judging, mating for feather, etc., are all matters we feel, that do not belong to us. They are best handled by the journals devoted to the fancy. The field is large. Journals devoted to the market side can find plenty of material without trying to carry water on two shoulders.

Our brevity plan seems to be just what the people wanted. It is a surprise to us that our older journals did not discover the fact before. But then it is so easy to fill up a page with column articles—and so hard to boil down, abbreviate, skim-off-the-cream, that editors have been slow to adopt the plan. But we accept the extra work because we want to see our readers wishes gratified.

Here are samples of the praise we are receiving:

Isaac B. Henry, ordnance sergeant U. S. A., Fort Macon, Beaufort, N. C.: "I think A FEW HENS is about the right thing, and wish it success."

Benj. S. Dowse, Sherborn, Mass.: "Have had good success with my hens the past winter, picking up many points from your big little paper."

Geo. W. Brown, Denton, Mich.: "My subscription to your paper is in arrears, as I have just been mustered out of the U. S. service, with 31st Michigan. Would as soon think of keeping house without a wife, as poultry without A FEW HENS. I am but a beginner, and your practical suggestions are of immense value to me."

Irvin H. Huff, Bryn Mawr, Pa.: "I am getting four poultry papers, all good—but A FEW HENS is the best."

J. Harry Wolsieffer, Egg Harbor City, N. J.: "Nothing like your A FEW HENS. It's the best all round poultry paper up to date."

Brief Compliment. The editor of the *Inter-State Poultryman* knows how to pay a "boiled down" compliment to a *multum in parvo* journal. Here it is: "A FEW HENS—boiled down—practical information—hits Boyer's paper."

Valued Opinion. Editor Drevenstedt, of the *American Fancier*, publishes a fanciers' journal, but he is not thin-skinned. He knows the need of practical information, and here is his valued opinion: "M. K. Boyer's sheet, A FEW HENS, is the best practical monthly paper we have ever seen. Everything in it is boiled down by Uncle Mike, and the man who cannot find many valuable pointers in each issue is a useless member of society. We think so much of this great little paper that we will give it free one year to every subscriber of the *American Fancier* who sends in one dollar, the price of the latter for one year. Renewals go."

Again We Bow. The *Ohio Poultry Journal* makes room for this editorial in its June issue, for which we bow our thanks:

"The editor of A FEW HENS, in announcing the success attained by his meritorious journal in building up a large circulation for itself within a few years, says:

"There is one thing that A FEW HENS is especially proud of, and that is none of its glory or success was attained by attempts to hurt any other publication's business. We envy no one. We want to see all succeed. It is the selfish, mean disposition that thinks, like the Pharisee—'Thank God I am not like other men.'"

"These are truly generous sentiments. A publication conducted on such a broad-minded, liberal basis as that here outlined deserves success, and especially so when, as in the case of A FEW HENS, it possesses intrinsic merit. A business enterprise that proceeds on these lines should excite the emulation of all, the envy of no one."

Tell the People. A man in business must not "hide his light under a bushel." Self-praise is a

poor recommendation, generally speaking, but in business the man who will not "toot his own horn" is very apt to get left. Now, advertising is very much of the same order of the street merchant selling his goods to the crowd gathered around him—his success depends upon the nature of the crowd. To place an advertisement in a paper that does not reach the right class of people—people who are buyers—is just that much lost. Following is a stanza taken from the *Egg and Poultry Farm Journal* that is appropriate:

"Shouting wares may raise a rumpus,
But it's talking through your hat!
Be no longer like a Grampus,
Losing money, losing fat;
Place your ads. in these columns,
Show the people where you're at!"

Here is the testimony of a man who followed that advice, and he tells you where he's at:

"I am very much pleased with my small advertisements in A FEW HENS. They have returned me better results by 100 per cent than any ad. I ever placed. I have not advertised in all the poultry papers but have advertised in three that claim to be the 'great ones.' I have sold so many eggs that I am short myself, and have now all the orders I can fill up to June 1st."

That letter was dated May 18th. Following is one received June 26th:

"I have just caught up with egg orders today. Sent the last lot to Missouri. Have fifty more to deliver. Practically all were sold through A FEW HENS. My chicks are doing finely. 51 Golden Egg chicks weighed, at just 8 weeks old, 104 pounds; individuals just under 3 pounds. I should like to hear from somebody who can beat that."

The above correspondence is from Prof. William E. Sargent, principal of the High School at Lancaster, Mass. Prof. Sargent in addition to his duties at school has perfected a strain of White Wyandottes that lay a rich colored brown egg. One hen in particular laid such brown eggs that at the Boston show Mr. Sargent received the first prize. That hen he termed Golden Egg, and practically from the eggs laid by that hen he has built up his present strain.

Poultry and Asparagus. One of the firm of Crawford Bros., North East, Pa., called upon A FEW HENS this month and explained

how they got into the poultry business. They have a large fruit farm, and also raise considerable asparagus for market. For a number of years they were suffering a great loss from beetles getting into the asparagus beds. After enduring this loss about as long as they could afford, they conceived the idea of turning young chicks on the beds. It worked like magic. Today they are able to grow both chicks and asparagus on the same ground. This may be an important item for some of our farmer readers.

**

New Journals. Among the new journals that have come to light—and which have been received by A FEW HENS—are the *Egg and Poultry Farm Journal*, of New Orleans, La., and *Poultry, Fruit and Garden*, of Kansas City, Mo. They are very neatly gotten up, ably edited, and, we believe, will be successful—at least they should be. We are always pleased to welcome the new journals, as they open up new fields and help the industry wonderfully. The South is a rich field for poultry culture, and these journals will do much to fully represent that section.

**

One of Our Students. Here is a letter from Herbert H. Dyer, Cambridgeport, Mass., that gives us encouragement. What we are pleased to know is not only how well our journal is liked, but also how well is the information imparted received. Mr. Dyer writes:

"I have been intending to write you for a long time how much I enjoy reading your little paper. It is so practical, concise, yet full of boiled down helps for busy people. I have every number published, and all your books.

"With your chicken coop and covered run illustrated (I wish you would illustrate your other new buildings—your scratching shed house, feed and incubator houses) in the December 15, 1897, number. I have had great success in raising my chickens for the past two years. They are cat proof, and in the city one must look out for cats and dogs. When it rains I have a strip of red Neponset paper, long enough to cover the run and to lap over a little at both ends. I find this a great aid in keeping the chicks and runs dry. When not in use the paper is rolled up, tied and placed handy to the run until the next rain. I am now using the same strips for the second season. They will last a long while if properly taken care of. Perhaps some of the readers of A FEW HENS would like to know of this cover.

"I am very much interested in your tests of the trap nests; let the good work go on, for I think in the near future all progressive poultrymen will be using them to test their breeding stock. I like the way you speak for the White Wyandottes, a breed that I think is not equaled by any, and I have tried Langshans and Plymouth Rocks.

"Long may A FEW HENS live and prosper, and may that Experimental Farm succeed."

Hammonton We are constantly in receipt of letters from our readers inquiring if there are any desirable properties for sale in Hammonton, N. J., suitable for poultry farming, also information regarding the climate, soil, general health, etc. We are not in the real estate business, and have no interests here beyond our own property, and that is not for sale. But for the information of our correspondents, we will reply in a general way.

Hammonton is situated half way from Philadelphia and Atlantic City, 30 miles from either point. It is on the direct line of two railroads. The population runs somewhere between 4000 and 5000 inhabitants. The winters are mild, very often not enough snow for sleighing. There is generally pleasant weather from early spring until after New Year's. The summers are pleasant; hot in the sun and cool in the shade. The nights are nearly always cool, no matter how hot the day. The climate is all that could be expected, free from malaria, and contagion never seems to get a hold in the town. There has never been an epidemic here. The soil is sandy with an excellent clay subsoil. It is without a doubt the best soil for poultry culture. Gapes and cholera are unknown here.

As for properties for sale or rent, we cannot reply. There may be some, but the only one we know of is that advertised in this issue by J. E. Watkis, and to which we would refer the reader. We visited the farm, in order to have some knowledge of the offer Mr. Watkis makes in his advertisement, and can assure those interested that he does not give the facts a false coloring. It is one of the most attractive places in the town, and would not be in the market today but for the fact that Mr. Watkis married a lady who had a larger farm in another section of the town, and as he removed to the latter place he decided it would be better to dispose of his place rather than try to run two farms. Mr. Watkis was one of the original broiler and squab raisers in this town, and his place was well fitted up for the business. For fruit, poultry and vegetable farming, it would be just the thing.

As for settling in Hammonton, or anywhere else, it is always best to first visit the town and see if it is what is wanted. Weigh all sides of the question, and don't forget the fact that it requires money here as well as anywhere else to make the poultry business successful.

**

Protection for Fresh Eggs. As our readers know, A FEW HENS is opposed to packing, preserving or icing eggs

in summer for sale in winter in competition with the genuine fresh article. It is a trick that if allowed to stand would ultimately ruin the fresh egg market. There can be no harm in selling these packed or cold storage eggs provided they are advertised as such, but to put this stale article on the *fresh egg* market is where the deception comes in. It should be the concern of all to protect all articles of food, and it is a surprise to us to see journals devote so much space in trying to teach their readers to

do the very thing they would not want to be deceived in themselves.

R. W. Davison, in the *Agricultural Epitomist*, takes the same view of things as we do, as the following extract will show:

"We understand that there is a movement on foot in Massachusetts to protect both buyer and seller of strictly fresh eggs. This is a very wise movement. It is surprising how many buyers there are who cannot tell a fresh egg from a stale one, unless it is wholly bad or nearly so. Stale eggs are not very wholesome food. Many an invalid has been prevented from not realizing just where the fault was. When eggs are scarce, crate eggs, or preserved eggs, and cold storage eggs are often the only egg food on the market. There is no way to suppress this sale, and it is not desired to do so, yet we ought to have such laws enacted as will compel dealers to sell such eggs for just what they are, and not as fresh eggs, as is done at all times. Butter is so protected, and why not protect freshly laid eggs? With the characteristic energy of New England, we expect to see such a law put into effect in the near future.

"True, all eggs are the production of the hen, yet there is just as much difference between a fresh and a preserved egg, or cold storage egg, as there is between cow butter and manufactured butter. The manufactured butter is considered clean, and, in a measure, healthy, while a stale egg is neither clean nor healthy. Eggs absorb impurities from their surroundings quite as readily as anything else. Let the people know just what they are buying, and the only way to do it is by compelling dealers and sellers to mark plainly all eggs and packages."

STEYER'S LICE POWDER does the work. See advertisement.

KILL LICE on poultry with Liquid Lice Killer. Sure death to all vermin. Harmless, easily applied. Formula how to make and use it for 10 cents. GALLATIN CO., York, Pa.

WHITE LEGHORN PLACE.

Some very choice yearlings and young stock for sale, only \$1.00. Eggs in season. Write quick. W. A. WARREN, Specialist, Ransomville, N. Y.

Niagara Farm,

1899 BREEDING STOCK.

Mammoth Pekin Ducks, Pure White Wyandottes, Mammoth Belgian Hares, \$1.00 each. White Holland Turkeys, \$2.00 each. New Crop Niagara brand fine cut green cured Clover, \$1.50 per 100 pounds.

One 400-egg size Prairie State Incubator, \$30.00, or will exchange for White Wyandottes.

POULTRY SUPPLIES.

W. R. CURTISS & CO., Ransomville, N. Y.

Circular.

WHITE WYANDOTTES.

Fine Stock. WM. F. STROUD, Merchantville, N. J.

W. and Barred Ply. Rocks. Fine stock; heavy layers. Eggs, \$1 for 13; \$5 per hundred. C. M. Hubbard, Box 114, New Brunswick, N. J.

TREICHLER'S Poultry Farm. Offers S. C. W. Leghorn and White Wyandotte eggs from utility and beauty stock, at \$1.00 per 15; \$3 per 50; \$5 per 100. Fertility guaranteed. C. F. Treichler, Sanborn, N. Y.

SUCCESSFUL INCUBATORS.

Hot Air or Hot Water.



A standard machine for hatching strong, healthy chicks—self-regulating, patent egg turning trays, drying room under trays, non-explosive lamp—these are a few of its good points. Our 148 p catalogue gives prices and description, also pointers on poultry

buildings, etc., mailed for 6c stamps. Write for it now. DES MOINES INCUBATOR CO., Box 423 Des Moines, Iowa.

Millet Seed. Much has of late been said both for and against the use of millet seed for a poultry food.

Our experience with it has not found it detrimental, and as a grain for scattering in litter in the scratching shed, by way of variety, it certainly is worthy of recognition.

Nellie Hawks, Friend, Nebraska, sends the following to A FEW HENS, which is worthy of a perusal:

"Many things of a detrimental character have been said concerning millet seed as a food for chicks during the past few months. I opened my eyes wide as I read them, and set myself to wondering if it could be possible that millet seed was so dangerous a food for chicks as said to be, and I so stupid and obtuse that, after four years or more of advocacy of millet seed diet, and use of it for my own chicks, I had not discovered its death-dealing nature.

"But it's all a myth, my poultry friends—that story of millet seed being an unfit food for chicks, old and young. It is a standby food at this farm; one of the everyday articles of the everyday bill of fare. I have even fed it exclusively for quite a length of time, and with only the best results, though I do not advocate an exclusive diet of any one article of food. We have all cried 'variety' until, like the 'Keep 'em scratching,' the cry has taken on the ring of 'a chestnut.' But I still cry 'variety' for the chicks. Let millet seed be a right goodly part of the variety. Chicks clamor for it when it is withheld, after they have become accustomed to having it frequently or quite regularly. It is usually an inexpensive food, though it does occasionally take a boom and run up in price, even to the much talked of 'top of the market.' But even at 60 cents per bushel, we have fed millet seed and considered that it paid us to do so. But we have more often purchased it for from 25 to 30 cts. per bushel. We raise it on our farm sometimes. But sometimes we don't. When we do not, we buy it for the chicks, and to sow for green stuff for growing chicks and laying hens. We have failed to find it in an undigested condition in the droppings of well, strong chicks. If a chick is weak and sick nothing that it eats is well digested. But give the strong chick millet seed, and it will take care of it to your advantage as well as its own. It's an ideal food. Use plenty of it."

* * *

Diet and Care. In order to have success in poultry culture, it is necessary to give good diet and care. On those essentials hangs your fate. We often hear the unfortunate one say, "I gave my chickens the best of feed and care, and they would not lay when the prices were high, and took sick without the least apparent cause. My experience has been a failure." Now when we hear a complaint like that we feel like saying we don't believe it. There is not an article on the market that is more stable than either poultry or eggs, so that it is not a question of getting rid of the product; and there is not a specimen of live stock that responds so generously to good treatment than does a hen. The fault

or failure, every time, lies with the man.

Now we believe that there are many who think they are giving their poultry the best of attention when they really are not. A good house, and grain thrown them regularly—while they are necessary—do not combine all that must be done to give the hen fair play. There are details—probably only small matters that would be considered by many unnecessary—that count for much. A very little hole in the ship may eventually sink her. Then what does this good diet and care really mean?

In diet it means a variety of such foods as are calculated to meet the object desired. If eggs, egg food; if meat, fattening food; if chickens, growing food. There must be an object, and the stock must be fed for that purpose. Wheat, oats, barley, buckwheat and millet, with occasionally a little corn, form an excellent variety of whole grains; bran, cornmeal, middlings, ground oats, clover hay, linseed meal, animal meal, green food, vegetables, dried bread—all help to make up a bill of fare that gives a variety, and one of which the hen never tires. When a fowl is fed a variety, when there is always something new, there is never any trouble about bowel complaint. But have a fixed ration, that is, the same thing day after day, and there is always trouble.

In that item of animal meal we also include green cut bone. We make it a noon meal twice a week. The fowls crave it, and they do well. Now we have heard considerable complaint about green bone, but in every case where we investigated it we found that the trouble lie in the manner in which it was fed. Given every day, all the hen will eat, it is dangerous. We believe that in such a case it will breed worms in the fowl. It is a mistake to feed any one article continually. The greatest poultry grain we have is wheat. Yet feed wheat continually, and you will have as good an epidemic of bowel disease as you will with green bone.

R. I. REDS. Prolific layers Eggs, 26, \$1.50; \$4 pr. 100. St'k in season. E. S. Piper, Camden, Me.

MICHAEL K. BOYER, editor A FEW HENS, has tried and fully endorses Steyer's Lice Powder.

The RELIABLE Nest Box Points out each layer and her egg. Simple, Reliable, Safe, Cheap. 10 cents per nest. Complete Plans and Directions for making three styles, sent for \$1.00. Send for circular.

M. L. NEWELL, Box 179, Denver, Colo.

LICE AND BAD LUCK

Keep your poultry free from lice and you will have no trouble with other diseases.

PIKE'S LICE DESTROYER

will kill the lice and mites or money refunded. Send for circulars and prices.

SPRAGUE COMMISSION CO., 218 South Water Street, Chicago, Ill.

SCRATCHING SHEDS

would be a mistake if they were intended for convenient places for hens to "scratch," on account of the lice. Like all our enemies, lice are always with us. To defeat these murderous pests requires an article that will "touch the spot" the moment it is applied. There are many preparations on the market, and they no doubt deserve considerable praise, but we know that there is no article that will do the work like **STEYER'S LICE POWDER.** It is a combination of several valuable articles, each one of which would in itself be effective—the combination, however, makes it all the more prompt in its action. At all times it is safe to handle. Endorsed by Michael K. Boyer, editor A FEW HENS.

Price 20 cents per pound; seven pounds for \$1.00

A. F. STEYER & CO., 2605 North 18th Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Then with the articles of food, there are "side dishes" that must not be neglected. They are grit, oyster shell and charcoal. There are people who do not believe in them, but there never yet was, as near as we can learn, a successful poultry farm that did not use them. Grit for grinding, oyster shell for lime, charcoal to help digestion and prevent sourness of the crop. We cannot keep poultry without them.

The man who, under that variety, cannot get eggs in winter must either have a cold house or he has lazy stock. If he has either or both he is to blame. We want warm houses in winter and cool ones in summer, and for that reason have accepted the scratching shed plan. And in the shed part we have a foot of light litter, and among this litter we scatter the grain. The hen soon learns that unless she wishes to starve she must get up and work. It is this working that keeps her from getting over-fat and puts her in the best of health, and when in that condition she is bound to lay.

We feed the mash in the morning. We have not yet read what we considered a convincing argument in favor of the mash at night. We want the breakfast to be one that is quickly assimilated. This would not be the case with whole grain; on the other hand, we want the night food to be one that will slowly digest, for as long as there is food in the crop there will be warmth in the body. A cold hen will not lay. There are too many cold hens in the country. But in feeding that mash in the morning there is not always the best of care taken. To give the hen all she will eat will make her lazy for the best part of the morning. Just enough

The Bone Cutter Question.



is not: Is a bone cutter a good thing? (all agree that it is), but: Which is the best bone cutter to buy? Every user will answer: The Webster & Hannum cuts more bone and cuts it better than any other.

Only one hand required to operate. Self-feeding and regulating. We also make Clover Cutters and Stone Crushers.

Received only award at World's Fair, Chicago. Booklet all about hens and how to make them lay, free. Send your address.

E. C. STEARNS & CO., Box 6, Syracuse, N. Y.

THE IMPROVED EMPIRE STATE BROODERS FOR 1899

Have many points far in advance of other makes; one very important item is the saving of 1.3 to 1.2 in oil. Stop this useless waste, as it means dollars to you. Brooder Lamps 60 cts. each; \$3.00 1-2 doz. Tested Thermometers 30 cts. each, by mail. Send stamps for circulars; it will pay you. Prices reasonable. **FOR SALE:**—One Cream Separator, cheap. Capacity 375 pounds. Address, Empire State Brooder Co., Hall's Corners, N. Y.

to about two-thirds gratify her wish will be enough to keep her still slightly hungry—just hungry enough for her to scratch about in the litter and see if there is not some grain among it. She remembers that she found some there the night before.

We have a double run to each of our scratching pens. While the hens occupy the one green stuff is growing in the next. When we sow the grain for green stuff—we generally use oats—we put it pretty deep in the ground. It takes a little longer for it to show itself on top, but it gets a firmer hold, and the fowls are not so apt to tear it up at the first attempt. With the bill of fare as given above, and with these scratching sheds for winter, and the alternate yards in summer, we are getting more eggs and have healthier stock than many parties in this section who allow their fowls to roam just where they will, and who, during the summer, are made to find nearly all of their food.

In care that important item of cleanliness is too often neglected. To remove the droppings daily is a work that they deem does not pay. To keep the place disinfected and frequently use the whitewash brush looks to them like good enough work when a person don't know what next to do, but for a regular job it is expensive.

We could fill this issue with a score or more of items that come under that head of care, but we must reserve them for a future issue. We wish to add, however, that the smallest detail must be looked after. Every precaution must be taken to have the fowls healthy and comfortable. Regularity must be observed in all things. We have yet to see a failure when all these things are observed—unless the man has run himself in debt to start, and has no working capital—but then there is not a business on the face of this earth that would succeed under such circumstances.

That In a recent issue of Telephone. *Poultry Farmer*, Des Moines, Iowa, we find the following kind notice:

"Our friend Boyer, of Hammonton, N. J., he of poultry fame, has put in a telephone from his house to the feeding rooms of his poultry establishment, which will be the means of saving a great many steps and also preventing a ruffling of his temper by a constant going back and forth from the two places mentioned. Mr. Boyer has a good manager over his feeding pens, but he has personal supervision of the whole business, and it is necessary that he have constant communication, which is found in no other way than by personal attention or by 'phone.'"

Trap Nest Trials. The interest in the trials being made on A FEW HENS' Experimental Farm, with trap nests, seems to be increasing. Our readers are writing all sorts of encouragement and watching the results reported each month.

Geo. A. Sprague, West Stoughton, Mass., sends us a description of a nest which he is successfully using. He says:

"I have taken your paper a short time, and have been interested in your articles on trap nests. I have got an idea that I would like you to try, and if it works O. K. give it to your readers *gratis*, only give me the credit. I have never seen any, and maybe mine may be an infringement on some others, but this is the way to make it:

"Take any box large enough for the hen to get in and be twice her length. Nail a cleat on the bottom so it will tip towards the end she goes in. Make a light door so she can get out, hanging it on hinges that will work easy; set the door about half way open, and hold it there with a nail driven into something so it will just hold it. When the hen goes in her weight will tip the box the other way, and the door will shut, and there you are. When you take or let her out, you merely open the door half way, tip the box front again and it is ready for the next. You want a catch made to hold the door. Fasten this to side of box, so it will work easy. Drive in a nail so it cannot drop down, and so it will catch another nail driven in the door to hold it. Does not need to be lifted, only enough to get over the nail in the door, and that can be very small and still hold all right. Trusting I have made it plain enough for you, and that it will save some of my brother amateurs a few dollars, I remain yours for poultry beginners."

F. O. Wellcome, Yarmouth, Me., who has forwarded us nests for trial, says he wants us to tell the full truth in the matter, no matter who is hurt. That is just what we intend doing. This contest was started with no intention of working for the benefit of any one party, or hurting the interests of an-

other. We intend stating facts just as we find them.

Mr. Wellcome writes:

"Some one has said that 'truth is hidden in the bottom of a well.' It is, indeed, and a deep artesian well at that. I honor you, Mr. Boyer, for the courageous manner in which you edit the brightest and best poultry paper of them all, for honesty makes many enemies, and often keeps a man poor.

"I think that it was Bill Nye who said, in comparing honesty with dishonesty, that 'honesty is the best policy, and I know, for I have tried both.' But some men in the poultry business, I fear, have never tried but one—and that was not honesty. I intended writing a brief letter, and I have almost preached a sermon.

"I trust that you will receive the nest box all right, and give it a trial with the rest. I have decided to call it the 'Ideal,' for it certainly is my ideal of a nest."

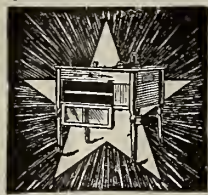
We also received the following letter from Mr. Wellcome, which deserves notice:

"In the editorial column of the June

WHEN your poultry are lousy, try Steyer's Lice Powder. It will bring good results.

Fruit and Poultry Farm,

19 acres, situated in Hammonton, N. J. Nine acres in small fruits; 900 standard fruit trees—peaches, apples, cherries and plums. Vineyard of 425 choice grape vines. House of nine rooms, well shaded, and lawns. Three good poultry houses, with large yards and shade. Hammonton is within the Isothermal line, which marks the great health belt of New Jersey. Water soft. Persons wishing to escape the rigors of Northern winters, will find Hammonton an admirable place, where they can profitably and easily till the soil and engage in the poultry business the year round. Satisfactory reasons given for selling. Price, \$3,000. Address, J. E. WATKINS, Hammonton, N. J. Or, Michael K. Boyer, editor A FEW HENS.



The NO MOISTURE kind.

The **Star Incubator** imitates nature more nearly than any other. You do not supply moisture for the old hen; neither need you for our machine. This is why chicks hatched in the **Star** are stronger than those hatched in other incubators. Our guarantee talks—**your money back if you want it.**

Catalogue free. **STAR INCUBATOR CO., Bound Brook, N. J.**

Poultry Supplies:

BOILED BEEF AND BONE,	FEED TRAYS,	INCUBATOR THERMOMETERS,
BOWKER'S ANIMAL MEAL,	LEG BANDS,	SULPHUR CANDLES,
BRADLEY'S MEAT MEAL,	CHINA EGGS,	EGG TESTERS,
BEEF SCRAPS,	BONE CUTTERS,	BOOKS ON DOGS, CHICKENS,
OYSTER SHELLS,	SHELL MILLS,	RABBITS, CATS, PIGEONS, ETC.
MICA CRYSTAL GRIT,	CLOVER CUTTERS,	SHERIDAN'S CONDITION POWDER,
ORR'S CLEAR GRIT,	KILLING KNIVES,	PRATT'S POULTRY FOOD,
DRINKING FOUNTAINS,	WIRE NETTING,	LEE'S LICE KILLER,
CONKEY ROUP CURE,	CAPONIZING SETS,	GERMERZONE,
SAFETY AND PRIME EGG CASES,	GREELEY ROUP AND CHOLERA CURE.	
MEXICAN MUSTANG LINIMENT,	LAMBERT'S DEATH TO LICE,	
P. D. Q. FLEA POWDER,	JOHNSON'S ANODYNE LINIMENT.	

Sole Manufacturers **BANNER EGG FOOD and TONIC.** Small Sample Free.
New York and Export Agents for the Prairie State Incubators and Brooders.

Our Immense Illustrated Catalogue Free. Mention A Few Hens.

Excelsior Wire and Poultry Supply Co.,

W. V. RUSS, Proprietor. 28 Vesey St., New York City.

15th number of A FEW HENS, you quote a letter from Mr. Lloyd, in which he makes a criticism of a certain advertisement of a nest box. I agree with him in what he says, and think he takes a manly stand for justice and truth. But just below his letter you say: 'A letter received from F. O. Wellcome, inventor of the nest trap referred to above,' etc.

"Now the nest trap referred to above, as it is printed in the paper, is not mine, as mine is not on the market yet, and of course has not been advertised. Of course, many of your readers will know at once what nest box Mr. Lloyd refers to, but I am afraid that others may think he refers to mine, on account of the seeming connection in the paper."

We wish to explain that Mr. Wellcome's nest was not implied in Mr. Lloyd's letter. In arranging the matter we accidentally got Mr. Wellcome's notices separated, which did rather mix matters.

Mr. Wellcome has sent us two nests, to which we called attention in a former issue. The last one sent is today the neatest and best finished of any yet received. The one previously sent was made out of a soap or rolled oats box, to show how economically they could be made. These nests are constructed on a different plan from any yet received, and give good satisfaction. It is impossible for more than one hen to enter it at one time, and it is equally impossible for a hen to get out of the nest when she is once enclosed. We have placed this nest on the list of our good ones.

The tests made with the Reliable Nest box in our Wyandotte pen is satisfactory, with the exception that in Style A, as stated in a previous issue, there is too much temptation for the hen to get under the nest to lay. We have found this to be a fact more with our Brahmas than with the Wyandottes. Yet, while this is so with several of the hens in the Wyandotte pen, quite a number seem to delight to fly up and lay.

Style A was Mr. Newall's first invention—Style C is a later one received, and we like it very much better. We tried it in the Brahma and Wyandotte pens, and it has not failed to work accurately. We have not yet found more than one hen on the nest at the same time, and we have also noticed that hens very quickly adopt it.

The Uneeda nest, manufactured by Mr. Lloyd, is also doing good work. To date it has not failed.

In one of our Brahma pens we have a row of Mr. Geishaker's "A FEW HENS Nest Traps," and they make a pretty sight, as well as do good work. They do not take up much room. Mr. Lloyd has just sent us two new nests of the same make, so that we can give them a full test.

The American Trap Nest is a good one, but we find that to gain the best results, it must be placed on a board platform, or the dirt works in the tramway, making it fail to close in the hen. This platform need be but a few inches high, just high enough to keep the dirt out.

We are indeed glad to see our readers take such an active interest in the trap nest trials, as it is for their benefit that

we are making the tests. Our aim is not so much to see which is the best, as it is to find how many of them are practicable. We know that by the use of a proper nest box it is possible to get better laying and breeding stock, and that is what we are after.

Questions Briefly Answered.

Condensed Replies to the Many Inquiries Received at this Office.

BREEDS.

A. F. R.: Single combs are apt to crop out of the best strains of Wyandottes. It is best, however, not to use them for breeding.

W. H. S.: Leghorns make good broilers, but they are slow at attaining the required weight. Black Minorcas are excellent layers.

M. N. B.: The Langshan is an excellent winter layer, and lays about the prettiest colored egg of any variety.

W. H. S.: The Houdan lays a large white egg, and a considerable number of them.

O. D. C.: Our only reason for selecting the Light Brahmas, White Wyandottes and White Leghorns is because we fancy them the most. There are other breeds just as good. A man should choose as near to his fancy as it is possible.

T. E. R.: It is a great mistake to have too many breeds. Better results can be had from a few than such a great variety.

M. N. B.: Every one interested in poultry, and in doubt about what would suit their fancy best, should first visit a poultry show and see the different varieties. Then having picked out certain ones investigate their merits from a practicable standpoint to see if they are best suited to their purpose.

FOOD AND FEEDING.

T. F.: We feed about one ounce of green bone to each fowl, and from 1-4 to 1-2 ounce to each chick, according to age, twice a week.

S. P. Y.: You will find a good argument in favor of millet seed in the editorial columns of this issue.

H. G. F.: No, it is not necessary to feed clover hay in summer when plenty of green grass can be had.

SEND a 2-cent stamp to A. F. Steyer & Co., 2605 North 18th Street, Philadelphia, Pa., for a free sample of Steyer's Lice Powder.

O. D. C.: It is hard to fix a rule for the amount of food that should be given a fowl each meal. The feeder must use his own judgment in that. To feed a fowl all it will eat up clean is well enough for some feeds, but if that feed consisted entirely of whole corn, we should protest, on account of its fattening nature.

T. F.: The very best articles of food for fattening are corn, cornmeal, bread crumbs, boiled potatoes, and cooked meat.

A. F. H.: Kaffir corn is a very good poultry feed, and not so fattening as Indian corn.

T. M. S.: Feeding one kind of grain exclusively will produce bowel troubles.

T. F.: Where green cut bone is fed daily, there is apt to be trouble with the fowls having worms. Two to three times a week is often enough.

J. K. L.: Middlings is a great egg producing food, but experiments have proved that it has a tendency to making smaller the size of the egg.

EGGS.

J. C. C.: A cross of Leghorn and Minorca on any of the American or Asiatic classes will make good layers and good table poultry, but we do not like them so well as the thoroughbreds, and on the long run the latter will prove the most profitable.

K. T.: Keep the eggs in a cool cellar and turn every day or two, when it is found inconvenient to market them oftener than once a week. Kept in that way they will remain in a very good condition.

PURE BRED PEKIN DUCKS for sale. As fine ducks as go on two feet. Prices right. Also some fine Barred Rock Cockerels later in season.
GEORGE H. BUTLER, Eliot, Maine.

HEN WANTS.

If you want your hens to be profitable you must supply them with the necessary food and appliances—working material. We handle a most full and complete **POULTRY SUPPLIES** embracing line of... everything from a poultry bit to an incubator. We mail FREE a large illustrated catalogue containing full description and prices to all interested inquirers.

HARVEY SEED CO., 35 Ellicott Street, Buffalo, N. Y.

UTILITY POULTRY FARM

FRANK A. D. BULLARD, Segreganset, Mass., Prop.

My business and all my time devoted to raising Practical Barred P. Rocks and S. C. White Leghorns. 700 chicks hatched this season. 60 of a lot hatched Jan. 21, '99, and later, I have already sold; they averaged 5 pounds net, and brought me a good profit. That shows their practical qualities. I might add that three of the pullets laid several eggs before they were five months old; they being forced for market. I will take orders for Cockerels or Pullets. Satisfaction guaranteed.



OUR GUIDE TO POULTRY CULTURE

tells first of all about the wonderful **CYPHERS** **INCUBATORS** **AND BROODERS** with a complete history of the laws of incubation. Then about the money there is in poultry and how to get it. All about modern poultry houses with plans for construction and cost. Tells how the big breeders succeed and gives pictures of their plants. It's worth many times its cost. Sent for 10c. Circulars free. **The CYPHERS INCUBATOR CO. Box 29, Wayland, N.Y.**

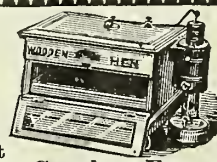


Hatch CHICKENS

WITH THE **EXCELSIOR INCUBATOR**

Simple, Perfect, Self-regulating. Thousands in successful operation. Guaranteed to hatch a larger percentage of less cost than any other Hatcher.

GEORGE H. STAHL, Patentee and Sole Manufacturer, 114 to 122 S. Sixth St., QUINCY, ILL.



WITH THE **Wooden Hen**

Most efficient small incubator ever invented. Perfect in every detail. Just the thing **Catalogs Free.** for poultry raising on a small scale, 50 egg capacity.

M. N.: We always wash the eggs we send to market for table use. It makes them look more attractive. But we do not believe in washing eggs for hatching, unless they are very dirty. We have an idea that the washing has a tendency to injure them.

F. W. M.: The Brahma lays the largest sized egg of any of the breeds in the Asiatic family. We have found them excellent winter layers when not allowed to overfatten.

A. F. H.: The eggs from the Mediterranean class, like the Leghorns and Minorcas, also the eggs from the Houdans, hatch very easily, and the percentage of hatch is as a rule very large.

P. P. P.: The double-yolked egg is no reason for rejoicing. It is a warning that the hens are in an overfat condition and should at once be reduced.

P. P. P.: The soft-shelled egg generally comes from a lack of lime in the food. In some cases overfat will produce it, but want of a sufficient amount of lime is more the cause than anything else.

BROILERS AND CHICKS.

F. W. M.: The cause of the chicks not thriving is, we believe, due to something in the diet that is not agreeing with them. When chicks suffer from constipation or diarrhoea, there is generally a cause found for it in the food.

I. B. H.: A good remedy for gaps in chicks is to give each one a piece of gum camphor about the size of a pea.

R. D. W.: The broiler chick must not weigh over two pounds dressed, and it is seldom that that weight is wanted. We have found the best rule is to kill them when they weigh two pounds alive, and the shrinkage will then bring them down to the best marketable weight.

F. W. M.: Chicks intended for breeding stock do better with a range than when confined to runs, but broilers should have as little range as possible, as too much exercise loses for them that juiciness which makes the broiler so attractive.

I. B. H.: The book "Broilers for Profit" is out of print at present, the edition being exhausted, but it is expected to have a new lot shortly printed, due notice of which will be given in these columns.

Mrs. B. N.: The Sprague Commission Co., 218 South Water St., Chicago, Ills., make a specialty of handling broilers, and we believe that they will secure the best prices for poultrymen in that section.

Mrs. B. N.: The book "All About Broilers" was written by the editor of A FEW HENS, and can be had by sending 25 cents to the editor at Hammon-ton, N. J.

DUCKS.

Mrs. B. N.: While it has been proved that duck farming can be made profitable without the use of bathing water for the breeding stock, yet the fact remains that bathing water gives the breeders considerable exercise which prevents them from getting overfat.

A. F. H.: No, it would not be practicable to use a trap nest in a duck house. Ducks do not prefer wooden

nests, but rather make them themselves in the corner of the house or some quiet nook.

Mrs. B. N.: It certainly would be cruel to pluck the feathers from live ducks.

C. V. F.: We do not know what results would be obtained from a cross of Indian Runner drake on Pekin females, but, according to the experience of James Rankin, we are led to believe that it is not profitable to make any crosses in the duck family.

F. G.: There is no disputing the fact that there must be more or less inbreeding in the Pekin ducks of this country, unless some of our enterprising duck raisers will import new blood from England. Yet we do not see any evil effects from it to date, at least if we may judge from the great weights that are being obtained.

T. M. S.: It is claimed that on some of the large duck farms they have greatly improved the vitality of their stock by outcrossing with Aylesbury blood. Where stock is wanted for market purposes, we have found this an excellent move. There is only one serious objection we have to the Aylesbury, the color of the bill is of a pale yellow color, and the shanks of a light orange order, which does not look as attractive as those of the Pekin.

GEESE.

S. P. T.: Prof. Samuel Cushman says if you want lots of the most marketable goslings, put genuine African males with your large Toulouse or Embden females, or African females with your Embden males.

P. S. P.: Geese pair if the sexes are equal.

G. P. P.: Four females to a male is considered a good mating.

Y. G.: The goose laying season usually opens in February.

C. D. R.: It is said that the Toulouse goose yields about a half pound of feathers at a picking.

M. K. L.: At three years of age, if well fattened, Toulouse geese have been made to weigh as high as 50 pounds per pair.

SITTING HENS.

D. F. R.: You can raise good chickens during July, when hatched by hens, providing you keep the hen and her young free from lice, and provide plenty of shade.

T. P. L.: Both the Plymouth Rock and the Wyandotte make good mothers as well as hatchers.

G. P. P.: It is best to hatch turkey, duck or goose eggs by hens.

H. J.: When a hen sits too close during hot weather she is apt to impart too much heat to the eggs. The hen that is off her eggs several times a day, during warm weather, generally hatches good, strong chicks.

TURKEYS.

O. J. C.: The best book on the subject that we know of is "Turkeys, and How to Grow Them," by Herbert Myrick. It can be had for \$1.00, by addressing this office.

B. O. T.: The wild turkeys come under the head of Mexican, Honduras and North American.

F. A. H.: I. K. Felch maintains that if one procured the finest gobbler that could be found, and mated him with extra choice hens, they could be kept and bred from as long as they lived.

E. T.: Boston is considered the best market for dressed turkeys.



PURE CLOVER
PIONEER
THE PERFECT
POULTRY
FOOD
THE BENNETT & MILLETT CO.
GOVERNOR, N. Y.

THE WINTER LAYER
will need a stimulant when the weather gets cold and everything is covered with snow. The very best stimulant known for egg production is

Pioneer Clover Meal
It is finely ground clover hay which has been carefully cured so as to preserve its natural green color and aroma. It is ground by our special made machinery and packed in new sacks. Prices, 50 lbs. \$1.00; 100 lbs. \$2.00; 5 lbs. 25c. Send for FREE sample book; endorsed by all leading poultry editors.
THE BENNETT & MILLETT COMPANY,
Box 11, Gouverneur, N. Y.

Most Practical Value
FOR THE MONEY.

Two Poultry Papers for only \$1.00.

FARM-POULTRY, semi-monthly, one year,	- - - - -	\$1.00
A FEW HENS, monthly, one year,	- - - - -	.25
Book, A LIVING FROM POULTRY,	by Boyer, - - -	.25
Book, PROFITABLE POULTRY FARMING,	by Boyer, - - -	.25
Book, BROILERS FOR PROFIT,	by Boyer, - - -	.50
Book, FARM-POULTRY DOCTOR,	by Sanborn, - - -	.50
All, if ordered separately,		\$2.75

IF ordered at one time, \$1.50.
BOTH PAPERS ALONE ONE YEAR, \$1.00.

Or, the two papers and any two books, \$1.30. No other changes in the combination allowed.

I. S. JOHNSON & CO., 22 Custom House St., Boston, Mass.

S. P. T.: It is claimed that from 75 to 100 turkeys should be raised from a breeding pen of six.

V. E. R.: The White Holland turkey can be had from D. A. Mount, Jamesburg, N. J.

H. L. K.: We believe it is better to have a turkey shed for the fowls to roost in at night than to have them roost out doors. Some raisers have a wire netting front to these sheds which they lower down after the turkeys are on the roost. This prevents thieves and other enemies from molesting the stock during the night, besides the stock is not exposed to inclement weather.

T. E. R.: You will find considerable instruction on turkey culture in our department on the subject found elsewhere in this issue.

DISEASES.

I. H. B.: Old fowls do not get the gapes. It seldom occurs in a chicken over two months of age.

G. M.: The only way to be sure to get the head lice on chicks, is to treat them individually. A good insect powder is invaluable for this purpose.

T. E. R.: Genuine roup cannot be cured. But in the early stages of the disease, the trouble can be righted by a timely application of common sense remedies.

P. H. J.: Anoint the hard substance on the tongue—commonly known as pip—with glycerine. Repeat the treatment daily until a cure is affected.

S. P. Y.: We have yet to see the first case of genuine cholera. Most of the "cholera cases" are nothing more than a combination of lice and indigestion.

H. G. F.: Feeding sour or spoiled food of any kind will bring on bowel troubles.

R. E. T.: The best book on poultry diseases is Dr. Sanborn's "Farm-Poultry Doctor." We will send you a copy for 50 cents.

P. P. C.: The symptoms of enteritis are very much like those of cholera, but the disease is not dangerous.

F. A. S.: A good treatment for indigestion is to add a little of Sheridan's Condition Powder daily to the soft food, or by giving a Parsons' Purgative Pill each night for three nights in succession.

ARTIFICIAL METHODS.

M. B. V.: We do not believe it is possible to run any machine in an extra dry location without using some moisture.

B. M. J.: Moisture guages and hygrometers are not reliable in determining moisture in an incubator.

L. O. P.: We never did favor helping chicks out of the shell. A chick that is not strong enough to free itself, will hardly be worth much after being liberated from the shell.

G. E. B.: A cellar is the best place to run an incubator if it is a dry one, but a damp cellar is the very worst place for a machine.

F. B.: An incubator that needs constant watching both night and day must have a very defective regulator.

F. D. A.: It is possible to hatch duck and chicken eggs in the same machine

at the same time, but it is not best to do so.

N. C. F.: You must not get too strong heat in the beginning of the hatch. It is better to take two days to getting the heat up to the required mark than to rush it ahead in the beginning.

H. K. M.: It is always best to follow the directions of the manufacturer in making the initial trial of the incubator. Those directions can then be gradually changed to suit your location after you once know how to master them.

E. R. T.: The amount of moisture or ventilation needed in the hatch must be governed by the condition of the air-cell. There can be no other successful rule adopted.

MISCELLANEOUS.

F. C.: We know very little about pigeons. Write to Thomas Wright, Medford, Mass., for desired information about squabs.

F. W. M.: We use the Mann bone cutter, and would recommend the No. 4 B-M size for 200 hens. It is a very easy running machine, and does excellent work.

A. O. C.: You can get full information about caponizing by sending us 25 cents for a book on the subject.

H. M. S.: Cow peas can be purchased at almost any store where food is sold.

B. P. M.: We use the Granite State Cooker, and like it very much. It can be had at almost any poultry house.

C. V. B.: We prefer the Neponset roofing paper to the old style tarred paper, as it will last longer and costs less labor to keep it in good condition.

A. F. H.: The American Poultry Association is a fanciers' organization, with the express purpose of perfecting the breeds we now have.

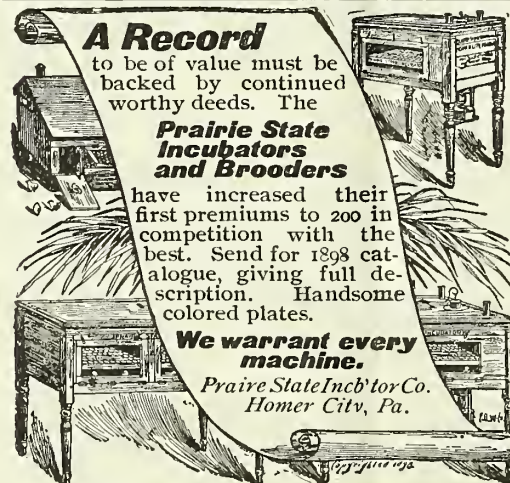
P. P. P.: The last American Standard was edited by J. H. Drevenstedt, editor of the *American Fancier*, Johnstown, N. Y.

I. S. P.: Orr's Clear Grit is a lime-stone article.

O. D. C.: We use Bowker's Animal Meal, and have always found it first-class for both old and young stock.

EGGS Barred Rocks, White Wyandottes, \$1.00 for 13. Pekin Ducks, \$1.00 for 12. W. H. Turkeys, Embden Geese, 25 cents each. WINFIELD DARLING, So. Setauket, L. I., N. Y.

A Record
to be of value must be backed by continued worthy deeds. The **Prairie State Incubators and Brooders** have increased their first premiums to 200 in competition with the best. Send for 1898 catalogue, giving full description. Handsome colored plates. **We warrant every machine.** *Prairie State Incubator Co. Homer City, Pa.*



CHAMPION POULTRY YARDS. Buxton Centre, Me. Wh. P. Rocks and Wh. Wyandottes. Pure white, large size, prolific layers of brown eggs, each pen headed by unrelated males. Buff Leghorns, fine in comb and color. Eggs, \$1 per 13; \$2 per 30. Circular free. B. A. Bradbury, Buxton Centre, Me.

Notes in Passing.

News in the Market Poultry World—Hints that May be of Value—Paragraphs from Our Exchanges.

Prepare for storms.
Make fresh nests often.
"There's room on top!"
Start on a firm foundation.
Does hot weather kill your energy?
Disinfect the soil with a green crop.
Don't get your expectations too high.
Be kind and gentle in handling stock.
Turn your theories into facts—if you can.
A good business principle will always win.
Are your hens feasting on the manure pile?
The best of care brings the best of results.
Good qualities can be found in all breeds.
Take pleasure, but don't neglect your work for it.
Keep the expense account within bounds of the income.
The lazy man never sees any benefit in improvements.
Paint and whitewash are both useful and ornamental.
Do not undervalue the worth of fresh air and sunshine.
A few drops of oil will stop the screeching of that rusty hinge.
Give the growing stock as much room and liberty as possible.
A faithful dog and an honest cat are invaluable on a poultry farm.
Mix common sense with your methods, and you will save much trouble.
Keep the hens from worrying. Regularity in feeding will prevent it.
Fresh water in filthy drinking vessels does not improve matters much.

[Continued on page 15.]

STEYER'S LICE POWDER is a good disinfectant for poultry houses.

BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS and **PEKIN DUCKS**, they are bred for good laying, and a fine market bird when dressed. Eggs for hatching from the same pens we breed from ourselves, \$1.50 pr. sitting; two sittings, \$2.50. **WM. WATMORE**, Moorestown, P. O., Lenola, N. J.

WHEN YOU HAVE ANY

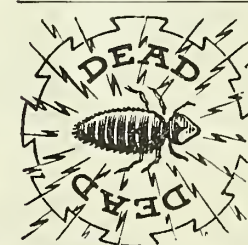
Poultry for Market

Write for prices to

PHILIP QUIGLEY,

Produce Commission Merchant,

No. 303 South Front Street, PHILADELPHIA, PA.



LICE multiply rapidly in hot weather, and the lice are killing the chicks now by the thousands. We advise you to **kill the lice** before they kill the chicks. There are many things sold as Lice Killers, but we have found none that does the killing so easily, neatly and quickly, with so little trouble as the

ELECTRIC INSECT EXTERMINATOR.

It is a dry powder that **Kills Lice** on anything. Horses, cattle, sheep, hogs and poultry; also kills plant lice, spiders, squash bugs, currant worms, etc. Harmless to animals, but sure death to lice and bugs. 3-4 lb. p'k'ge by mail for 25c.; 8 p'k'gs by ex. for 80c. Sample p'k'ge by mail, with receipt for making Liquid Lice Killer, sent free with our new Poultry Guide and Egg Record for 10 cents. Address, **Electric Poultry Supplies Co., Clintonville, Ct.**

Our Market Report.

An Accurate Account of the Highest, Lowest and Average Prices for the Best Market Stock, Paid During the Month of June—Goods Not up to the Standard Received Proportionately Less.

NEW YORK.

Furnished A FEW HENS by Dulany & Branin, 41 Hewitt Avenue, New York City.

	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Fresh eggs.....	16 1-2	15	16
Philada. Roasting Chickens,			
Broilers.....	45	30	38
Fowls.....	13	11 1-2	11 1-2
Ducks.....	22	14	17
Turkeys.....			
Capons.....			

PHILADELPHIA.

Furnished A FEW HENS by Philip Quigley, 303 South Front St., Philadelphia, Pa.

	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Fresh Eggs.....	15	13	14 1-6
Hens, live.....	13	10	11 1-2
Hens, dressed.....	12	10	11 3-8
Roasting Chickens, live....	28	18	22
Roasting Chickens, dressed	35	25	28
Old Roosters, live.....	8	7	7 1-8
Old Roosters, dressed.....	8	8	8
Broilers, live.....	30	20	25 1-3
Broilers, dressed.....	35	25	32 1-2
Frying chickens, live.....			
Frying chickens, dressed..			
Capons.....			
Capons, slips.....			
Ducks, live.....	10	9	9 1-2
Ducks, dressed.....			
Spring Ducks.....	14	12	12 1-2
Geese, live.....			
Geese, dressed.....			
Turkeys, live.....			
Turkeys, dressed.....			

BOSTON.

Furnished A FEW HENS by Bennett, Rand & Co., 20 North Market St., Boston, Mass.

	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Eggs, nearby and Cape....	18	18	18
Eggs, Eastern.....	16	15	15 1-4
Eggs, Vt. and N. H.....	16	15	15 1-4
Eggs, West'n, selected fresh	15	14	14 3-4
Eggs, Southern.....	13	13	13
NORTHERN and EASTERN.			
Chickens, dressed.....	20	20	20
Chickens, live.....	23	17	21
Fowls, dressed.....	14	12	13 1-3
Fowls, live.....	11 1-2	11	11 1-4
Roosters, live.....	7	7	7
Broilers, nearby.....	30	25	28 3-4
Chickens, Jersey.....			
Fowls, Jersey.....			
Ducks, dressed.....	18	16	17
Geese, dressed.....			
WESTERN.			
Turkeys.....	12	11	11 3-4
Turkeys, old toms.....	11	10 1-2	10 3-4
Chickens.....	13	13	13
Fowls.....	12	10 1-2	11 1-3
Ducks.....			
Geese.....			
Old cocks.....	8	7	7 2-3
Capons, large.....			
Capons, small and medium			
Capons, slips.....			

BUFF ROCKS.

The best all-round fowl for fanciers and farmers alike. We will have young stock for sale after September. FORD BROS., Oak Hill, N. Y.

Uneededa TRAP NEST.

You "push the button" the hen "does the rest." You get the hen and the egg.

W. M. LLOYD, Tuckahoe, N. Y.

CHICAGO.

Furnished A FEW HENS by the Sprague Commission Co., 218 So. Water St., Chicago, Ill.

	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Eggs, Duck.....	12 1-2	9	12
Eggs, Goose.....	12 1-2	12 1-2	12 1-2
Eggs, fresh.....	13	12	12 1-2
Chickens, hens, scalded....	10	8 1-2	8 3-4
Chickens, hens, alive.....	9 1-2	8	8 1-2
Chickens, frozen stock....	13	13	13
Spring chickens, scalded..	25	14	20 1-2
Spring chicks, dry-picked..	24 1-2	13 1-2	20
Spring chickens, live.....	24	14	20
Broilers, live.....	15	15	15
Capons.....			
Capons, slips.....			
Roosters, old, live.....	6	6	6
Roosters, young, live.....	6	6	6
Roosters, dressed.....			
Ducks, live.....	15	11	14
Ducks, dressed.....	16	11	15
Geese, live, per dozen.....	\$5	\$4	\$4.50
Geese, dressed.....	7	7	7
Turkey hens, dressed.....	10	8	8 1-2
Turkey hens, live.....	9	7	8
Turkey gobblers, y'n'g, dr			
Turkey gobblers, dressed..	8	6	7

WHY not use Steyer's Lice Powder? It will increase the egg yield.

200 BREEDERS of all varieties for sale. 75 Cockerels, cheap. Write your wants and I will give you low prices.

JAMES M. SMITH, Perkiomenville, Montg. Co., Pa.

Established 1855.

BENNETT, RAND & CO.,

Commission Merchants,

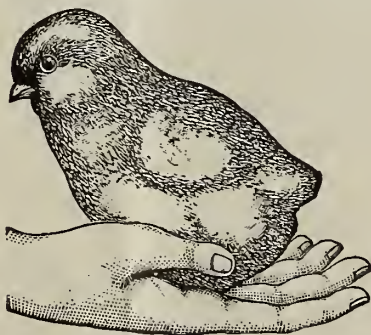
POULTRY, GAME, BUTTER, EGGS, Etc

Nos. 19 and 20 North Market Street,
and 19 Clinton Street, BOSTON, MASS.

Keep Your Chickens

STRONG and HEALTHY.

Those who succeed best raising poultry for profit are those who commence with little chicks, giving small doses of SHERIDAN'S CONDITION POWDER twice a week; then a little larger doses, and so on to the time when getting the pullets ready for early fall laying, a dose say of one teaspoonful to each quart of food, and so continue to use it, as one customer says she does, "from the cradle to the grave," and you will succeed nine times in ten, and have plenty of eggs to sell in the fall and winter months when prices are highest.



To make your Poultry pay, first hatch Strong, Healthy Chickens.

Then keep them healthy and growing if you want the Pullets to lay when five months old. When hens lay eggs for hatching, mix in their food every other day, SHERIDAN'S POWDER. It strengthens the hens; makes the rooster more vigorous; finally you get more fertile eggs.

It is a fact based upon the declaration of a noble contributor to science, that through the medium of the circulating blood, any particular organ of a living animal may be reached and stimulated into renewed vigor and activity if we will only administer the proper material to produce the desired effect.

No Matter What Kind of Foods You Use!

Sheridan's Condition Powder

is needed with it to assure perfect assimilation of the food elements necessary to produce eggs. It is absolutely pure; Highly concentrated; Most economical, because such small doses; No other kind one-fourth as strong; In quantity costs less than one-tenth cent a day per hen. In use over 30 years.

Sold by Druggists, Grocers and Feed Dealers, or sent by mail. Large cans most economical to buy.

IF YOU CAN'T GET IT NEAR HOME, SEND TO US. ASK FIRST.

We send one pack, 25 cts; five, \$1.00. A two-pound can, \$1.20; Six, \$5.00. Express paid. Sample copy "best Poultry paper" sent free. I. S. JOHNSON & CO., 22 Custom House St., Boston, Mass.

[NOTES IN PASSING—Continued.]

Shingle roofs are apt to warp and leak—we find Neponset paper more reliable. Have a pride in keeping things tidy, and do everything in a systematic manner. They are still holding on to the Jersey Blues in Burlington county, New Jersey.

Proper summer care of poultry prepares the flocks for the fall and winter campaign.

Method will make work pleasanter, and enable you to accomplish more with less fatigue.

"Utility" does not mean "mongrelism" any more than "thoroughbred" means "Standard-bred."

E. S. Grant, the Philadelphia actor, is making quite a success of his broiler farm in Hammonton.

The good qualities of the breed are demonstrated by the amount of attention and care given them.

Have every fixture in the poultry house movable, so that it can be readily cleaned from lice and dirt.

Just what the Rhode Island Reds can do will be proved the coming season on A FEW HENS' Experimental Farm. Caponizing is an art that, despite great attempts to boom it, never made enough headway to make it an object. *Farm Journal* thinks a cat that has contracted the chicken appetite would make a suitable gift to "your city cousin."

Look ahead. The man who lays his plans for the future, and each year works as close to them as possible, is the man who accomplishes something. A business hen is business all over, and should have business methods applied to her, so that she can have a chance to make a business profit for her owners.

The Fanciers' Review has added "Fruit Grower" to its title. This looks to us like a mistake. The poultry field is large enough, Brother, to support an exclusive paper.

A yard of weeds makes an excellent place for young chicks. They not only gather a lot of bugs in such a range, but they are more or less protected from the sun.

The *Inter-State Poultryman* says success in business depends on business grasp. A few chickens will not make you rich in a few years. Commence on a small scale and gradually increase.

The man who expects the hired man, or John, or Bill, to do what he himself has not the ambition to accomplish in hot weather, must certainly have extraordinary faith in human nature.

If there is any time of the year that it is necessary to carefully look after and attend to all the little things that success naturally hinges upon in poultry raising, it is when hot weather prevails.

The old way of carrying fowls by their legs is not practiced by the poultrymen of today. Holding the fowl firmly by the legs and allowing the body to rest on the arm is a much better method.

The *Western Poultry Journal*, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, makes a grand appearance with its new title page. The *Journal* is both ably edited and neatly printed, and deserves the big patronage it is getting.

Texas *Stock and Farm Journal* says: "If you would be a successful market poultryman, breed for both meat and eggs, and let the fancy points alone. If you expect to enter the show ring, then you must consider the standard for beauty as well as utility.

Poultry droppings make the best of manure for the garden. *Up-to-Date Farming* says: If you have not already built a tight bin for their preservation, you should do so at once. Their droppings will buy one-fourth of what the fowls eat in 12 months.

If one but has energy, some knowledge of fowls and fowl culture, some capital and a good location, there is no business that is any surer to return a fair profit for time, money and labor, than this same business of rearing fowls and eggs for market, says *American Stock-Keeper*.

It is true that a hen needs plenty of grit, but it is none the less a necessity for the poultryman, says *Inland Poultry Journal*. It requires considerable grit to meet the difficulties that come to the poultry business. Unless you have this grit you had better not try the poultry business yet awhile.

G. O. Brown says no two flocks are surrounded by precisely similar conditions. Close observation of the flock and their surroundings is a great

factor in securing success in poultry raising. This method will enable the owner "to nip in the bud" many things that would lead to trouble and loss.

The chicken business is a matter of wonderful importance to the table comfort and financial outlook of the American farmer, says Editor Atherton. Government statistics show that, despite the immense production of eggs, several million dollars' worth are annually imported to meet the deficiency of the home supply.

Fowls are obliged to throw off much of the waste of the body through the lungs. They do not sweat, but instead breathe several times faster than sweating animals when heated, says *Maine Farmer*. To keep in good health a hen requires nearly seven times the amount of fresh air in proportion to its size as does a horse.

An idle hen is a mischievous hen. Occupation has its moral effect on a flock of poultry, says *Baltimore Sun*. Poultry confined to restricted runs lack occupation, and in consequence get to feather pulling, picking the combs of the males, egg eating and other bad habits. A scratching shed kept well littered will prevent many of these troubles.

The editor of *Farm Journal* says he has hatched and reared several breeds of fowls and several strains of each of them, and he thinks he *knows* this: There is almost as much difference between different families or strains of each breed, as between the different breeds. He therefore receives with some allowance the praise or condemnation of any breed.

For Sale cheap. Two 200-egg Prairie State Inc., '98 pattern. P. M. Kell, 107 N. Hanover St., Carlisle, Pa.

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People We Know.

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Feathers is the title of a new penny weekly hailing from London, England.

The Bangor (Me.) *Daily Whig* in a recent issue illustrates their representative, F. E. Barry, driving his comfortable rig in search of news. Mr. Barry resides in Machias, and is one of A FEW HENS' large circle of readers and friends. Attention is called to the advertisements of Steyer's Lice Powder, as found in this issue. We have given this preparation a trial on A FEW HENS' Experimental Farm, and can recommend it as a safe and reliable article to use.

Do you want to combine fancy with utility? Then you must have the representative papers of both factions. For one dollar we will send you the *American Fancier* (weekly) and A FEW HENS (monthly), each one year. It is a big bargain.

The Woods Egg-Holder Co., 211 Locust st., St. Louis, Mo., have issued a new catalogue describing their egg cabinets and packages. A Woods egg cabinet is in use on A FEW HENS' Experimental Farm, and is giving the best of satisfaction.

Johnson's Anodyne Liniment is unlike any other remedy in cases of apoplexy or vertigo in poultry, or bronchitis, catarrh, cramps, rheumatism and leg weakness, diphtheria or ulcerated sore throat, canker, roup, and all diseases of an inflammatory order.

Parsons' Purgative Pills meet the remedial needs in poultry for anemia, apoplexy or vertigo, liver diseases and droopiness, cholera, rheumatism, debility, constipation, enteritis, indigestion, or any ailment to which poultry are subject on account of impure blood and bowel diseases. These pills do not gripe nor distress the fowl.

Sheridan's Condition Powder is invaluable in cases of anemia, or loss of blood, atrophy of the liver, baldness, white comb, scurvy or itch, bronchitis, catarrh, cholera, cramps, rheumatism and leg weakness, debility, diphtheria or ulcerated sore throat, and canker, diarrhoea and constipation, enteritis, indigestion, roup, molting—and all conditions which require a toning up.

The Evans Manufacturing Co., manufacturers of Evans Vegetable and Root Cutters, have outgrown their quarters and moved their factory from Ypsilanti to Detroit, Mich. The change was made necessary owing to the increasing demand for their machines, and requiring larger quarters decided to locate at Detroit to obtain better manufacturing and shipping facilities. A FEW HENS' readers should address all future correspondence to their new address.

White Wyandottes

GOLDEN EGG STRAIN.

April 7, seven hens hatched 53 chickens. 51 of these at 8 weeks old, weighed 104 pounds; the 25 cockerels weighed 56 pounds, and they are still growing. I am booking orders for this kind of stock. They are white, with rich yellow legs and skins.

WM. E. SARGENT, Lancaster, Mass.

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